

Glen Rock home for disabled still faces questions

Residents concerned about use

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GLEN ROCK – Questions about size and design remained after a meeting Monday to address the concerns of residents about a proposed home on Bradford Street for physically and developmentally disabled adults.

Bergen County's United Way is said to be close to acquiring a 0.34-acre plot it worked with Glen Rock officials to identify as a suitable site for the affordable-housing project.

Tom Toronto, president of Bergen County's United Way, said a condemned, 80-year-old home at the site is "in rough shape." The Glen Rock home's bones are solid, but Toronto said the structure needed "a complete gutting."

If the United Way closes on the land as it expects to on Sept. 15, the home will be razed and a single-level building will go up in its place, Toronto said.

Once constructed, the facility would house no more than 10 adults, Toronto said, and the site would forever be used only as "a home for the disabled."

Borough residents had expressed concerns the home could one day be converted into a halfway house.

At Monday night's Glen Rock council meeting, residents suggested that the United Way restrict occupancy of the home to four adults, saying that would respect the surrounding neighborhood's character.

Residents asked Toronto about the proposed home's design as well as its length and height. Toronto wouldn't comment on potential designs or building specifications for the project.

"There will be nothing institutional about it," Toronto said, adding that the home's exterior would probably emulate neighboring homes. "We're here because Glen Rock is a great community and that location is good for the folks we anticipate moving there."

Toronto said as soon as the home's design is complete, he would return to share it with the council.

The recent findings of a \$2,500 study commissioned by the Glen Rock council contended that the home would not lower neighboring property values.

Bergen County's United Way operates similar homes in Allendale, Mahwah, Demarest, Emerson and Ramsey.

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