

efforts, said that the idea of adding the nuclear-free zone measure to zoning regulations will be suggested in Salisbury.

Ms. Baxter said that if a local zoning board denies the state dump application, the state siting council needs a majority vote to override the local decision. The nine-member siting council will be increased to 13 members expressly for this issue. Three of the new members will come from the municipality chosen to host the dump, and the fourth new member will come from the most affected, adjacent community.

The state facility also needs approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the state Department of Environmental Protection, she said.

Mr. Johnson added that "even if there are some pre-emptive powers at the state and Federal level, by demonstrating local unity of people, that's worth something in itself. If we truly live in a democratic society, we need to listen to what people are saying in the most democratic forum, the town meeting."

"In order for a democracy to be effective, you have to have an educated public," Ms. Lake said. "As people learn more about nuclear power and its ramifications, they become more empowered" to do something about it. She added that such ordinances are specifically designed to not only limit radioactive waste, but also to prohibit the industrial applications of radioactive

materials.

According to Nuclear Free America, "nothing better illustrates the effectiveness of nuclear-free zones than the opposition they face." In 1983, nuclear-related industries spent more than \$550,000 to help defeat a Cambridge, Mass., initiative that would have banned certain research at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Johnson said.

More recently, according to Mr. Johnson, the Federal Government filed a lawsuit challenging a nuclear-free zone law in Oakland, Calif., which contained "clear, intentional language to try and set U.S. national policy, something that local governments aren't allowed to do." The law is being redrafted, he added.

Though Cambridge has not attempted to renew its proposal, Massachusetts leads the country with 29 nuclear-free zones, Mr. Johnson said. New York State has just five, while New Jersey has 14.

Ms. Lake said that in Connecticut, Portland and Stamford may be the next to enact nuclear-free zone ordinances. Ms. LaVoie said she has been contacted by residents in many Fairfield County towns about such laws. Ms. LaVoie added that a similar resolution may be considered by the Regional Refuse Disposal District board of directors, of which Winsted is a part. The district also includes the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook and New Hartford.

Sharon Group to Hire Lawyer

By JONATHAN P. TURNER

SHARON—An organization trying to remove the town from a list of potential sites for a the state's first nuclear-waste dump has raised about \$40,000 and plans to hire an attorney, according to Robert Finn, the group's president.

The organization, called Sharon Together Against a Nuclear Dump, sent out a fund-raising letter to residents earlier this month, which has generated over 100 responses, according to Mr. Finn, who said, "I'm delighted. It's really very encouraging."

Since the group was formed in late June, it has raised about \$40,000 to retain a lawyer and fund an independent study of a 233-acre parcel of land that the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service has chosen as a back-up site for the low-level radioactive waste dump.

Mr. Finn said that STAND intends to prove that the Sharon site is unsuitable for the disposal facility. The site was

chosen based strictly on written state and Federal information, with no on-site investigation.

The CHWMS must also do an independent review of the site selection process before on-site investigation can take place at the top three candidate sites in Ellington, East Windsor and South Windsor. A contractor will be chosen next month to do the review, which will take about five months to complete, according to CHWMS spokeswoman Anita Baxter.

Once the review is complete the site testing will begin and could take a year, according to Ms. Baxter, who pointed out that the Sharon site cannot be eliminated from consideration until this testing is completed.

A contingent site on the Voluntown-North Stonington line was recently eliminated from consideration because an on-site review revealed wetlands and an ancient burial ground.