



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University Declaration of Abandonment and Transfer of Real Property in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the abandonment of 79 acres of farmland located in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University (the "College") is located in the City of Ithaca, County of Tompkins, and is under the supervision of the State University of New York Board of Trustees pursuant to NYS Education Law §5712; and

Whereas the College has farming and other properties located throughout the State of New York for local research and experimental purposes; and

Whereas the College owns certain farmland consisting of 79 acres located in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia (the "Property"), as more fully described in the map attached to this Resolution, which was used for crop and forage research by the College; and

Whereas research at the Property has declined over the years, and it has been determined that the operational costs of maintaining the Property outweighs its benefit as a research location; and

Whereas the Town of Kinderhook has parklands that are adjacent to the 79 acres in question, and has requested that the Property be added to the Town park; and

Whereas NY Public Lands Law §34 allows for the transfer of State-owned lands to municipalities for one-dollar subject to conditions deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of the Office of General Services; and

Whereas the College believes that transferring the land to the Town of Kinderhook would provide a benefit to the surrounding community and general public; and

Whereas in order to ensure that the Property remains parkland and open to the public, the College desires to transfer the Property subject to a deed restriction that the Property remain parkland in perpetuity, and if it does not, the Property shall return to the State of New York and the College; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that in accordance with Public Lands Law section 34, SUNY has determined that the 79 acres of farmland located in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia are no longer necessary or useful for SUNY's purposes and should be abandoned by the College through the New York State Office of General Services; and, be it further

Resolved that due to the nature of the surrounding properties, and the existence of an adjacent town park, it is in the best interest of the surrounding community and the general public for the Property to be transferred to the Town of Kinderhook for parkland purposes, subject to a deed restriction that the Property remain parkland in perpetuity, and if it does not, it shall return to the State of New York and the College.

Background

The New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, which is under the supervision of the SUNY Board of Trustees pursuant to Education Law section 5712, owns property throughout the State that is used for experimentation and research. The College owns 79 acres of farmland in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia, State of New York known as the "East Farm." Research at the East Farm has declined over the years, and it was determined that the operational costs of maintaining the property outweighs its benefit as a research property. The Town of Kinderhook has a park adjacent to East Farm and wishes to expand the park. The College believes it is in the best interest of the surrounding community and general public for the lands to be transferred to the town and is authorized to do so pursuant to section 34 of the New York Public Lands Law.

In order to ensure that the Property remain in the public domain in perpetuity, a deed restriction will be placed on the Property that requires it to be used for parkland purposes in perpetuity, and that if such use cease, the land shall revert to the State of New York and returned to the College.

"EAST FARM"

Farm Credit East, ACA

File No. #

Cornell - E side

UAAR®

Client's Map Of Acreage To Be Valued

