



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: New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at
Cornell University Declaration of Abandonment of Real Property
in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the abandonment of 53 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 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 53 acres located in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia (the "Property") as more fully described in the map attached to this Resolution; and

Whereas the Property has been 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 outweigh its benefit as a research location; and

Whereas the proceeds of a sale of the Property could be used to further the College's mission; and

Whereas because the Property has been used as farmland for over 50 years, and the surrounding lands and community have a strong agricultural presence, it is in the best interest of the community and State that the lands remain in agricultural use in perpetuity, and should be sold with a deed restriction requiring that use; and

Whereas the Property has been appraised with a deed restriction factored into the value and it has been determined that a minimum market value so encumbered is \$200,000; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that in accordance with N.Y. Public Lands Law §30-a, SUNY has determined that the 53 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 history of the property in question being used as a working farm, it is in the best interest of the surrounding community for the Property to continue to be used as farmland, and, accordingly, as a condition of sale, a deed restriction shall be placed upon a majority of the Property requiring that it be used for farm purposes and in the event it is not so used the Property shall revert to the State of New York and returned to the College; and, be it further

Resolved that the minimum market value of \$200,000 is hereby approved.

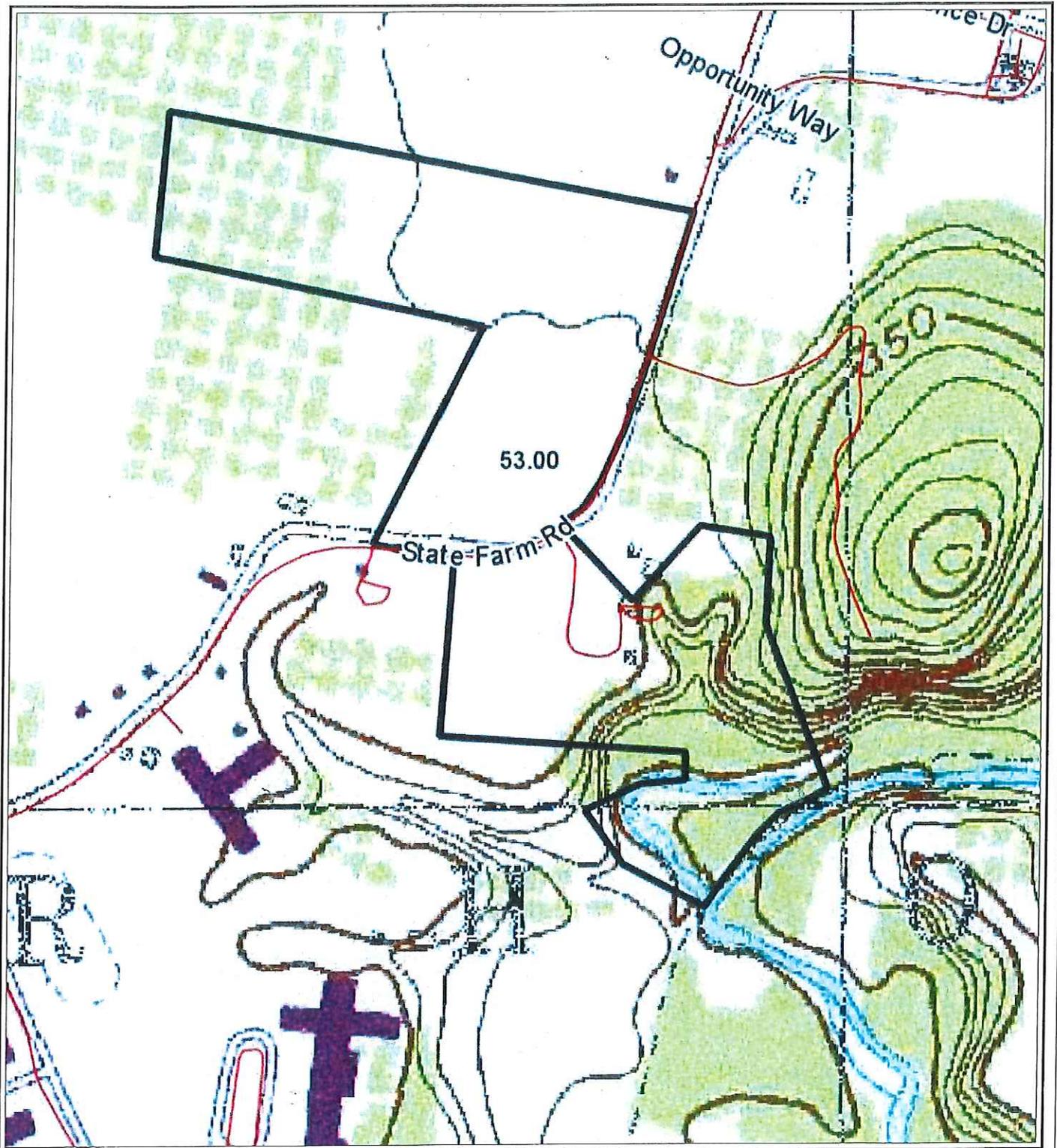
Background

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 53 acres of farmland in the Town of Valatie, County of Columbia, State of New York known as the "West Farm." The property includes several structures in need of repair or removal. Research at the West Farm has declined over the years, and it has been determined that the operational costs of maintaining the property outweighs its benefit as a research property. Proceeds from the sale of the property will be used to further the College's mission. Legal authority to abandon the Property is found in Section 30-a of the New York Public Lands Law.

There is strong local public interest in maintaining lands in this vicinity as farmland. Accordingly, the College requests that a deed restriction be placed on a majority of the West Farm property requiring that the Property be used for agricultural purposes in perpetuity, and that should such use cease, the land revert to the State of New York and returned to the College.

Attachment

Topo Map



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