PEAS – People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability

Mission Statement: Students and residents of the community dedicated to the furtherance and advancement of agrarian sustainability through local grass roots efforts within both producer and consumer realms.

Arising Out of the Need at Kenyon to Afford Greater Student Input, Understanding and Experience of Local Food at Kenyon and Kenyon in the Local Food Community, We Consider the Potential of These Various Activities and Roles for PEAS:

⇒ The Student Side of Food-for-Thought – 1) Engage in the process of educating public about the local food system and promoting local food consumption. 2) Conduct research to help producers to market their products. 3) Engage in community service and community organizations as related to farming, food production and local food awareness.

⇒ Farm to Cafeteria Agents of Promotion – 1) Lobby to make the Food Committee a body with a “bite,” keeping the healthful, local foods agenda in the forefront. Seek to ramp up student participation in the “food decision-making” process, increasing awareness within the Kenyon community of the issues and pressing for and maintaining accountability within AVI and the college. Act as representatives of and as liaisons to the student body. 2) Work directly with specification, procurement and processing of local food. 3) Become local food agents for Kenyon – cultivate
relationships with local farmers to supply Kenyon.

→ Press for Permanent Status of a Sustainable Agrarian Lifestyle at Kenyon with a focus of course work coupled with real world experience. Hire dedicated Kenyon staff person to oversee and manage work with Food for Thought, BEFC and REEL to foster sustainable living on campus and promotion of agrarian sustainability in the community. Construct, manage and staff Squatters’ Farm. Start with gardens and yurt at BFEC.

→ PEAS go to Market – Involvement in Buckeye and Summer Saturday Farmers markets

→ Planting PEAS – Apply for grants and administer internships for working with local farmers, markets, co-ops, etc. Participate in Local Food Council

→ Green PEAS – Be active sustainable agrarians!!!! Get plots of ground, some seeds and work our tails off. (See Squatters’ Farm above) We will encourage Kenyon and Philander Chase Corp. to allow sustainable farming by local farmers on land now leased to conventional farmers, providing employment, educational and internship opportunities to students.

→ PEAShooting Summer Internships – Go where PEAS are needed (as in shooting a pea, individuals will be dispatched to farms and other agrarian internships); Encourage the growth of PEAS agenda with possible PEAS Break – working relief and mission trips (South & Central America, Africa, Asia, or maybe even the Amish) to foster or learn agrarian sustainability on winter, spring and
summer breaks (as in a pea sprout shooting up out of the ground).

Have fun promoting healthy living and encouraging others in developing and flexing their food choice muscles.