Appendix B

Greenthumbs CONSTITUTION

Article 1: Name
Greenthumbs

Article 2: Purpose
1. A Service Goal: The goal of Greenthumbs is to serve to bridge the gap between the two populations that share the physical space and resources (fiscal and otherwise) provided by the town of Hamilton. Therefore, we intend to provide a service to both the Hamilton and Colgate communities. Through internal and external education campaigns, volunteering within the Hamilton community, we plan to fulfill our service goal.

Internal Education Campaign: The purpose of this campaign is to educate Greenthumbs members on the promises and pitfalls of sustainable agriculture. At every meeting, one member of the group conducts a teach-in on a particular component of sustainable agriculture and organic farming. All teaching materials used for teach-ins are stored in the Greenthumbs binder for future reference. The goal in doing so, is to create a book of articles and other reference materials to enhance the knowledge base of all members in the group.

External Education Campaign: This campaign serves to educate the Colgate Community on sustainable agriculture and organic farming. It is our contention that the vast majority of Colgate students, faculty, and staff are unaware neither of the origin of their food (the part of the world and the type of farm in which it was grown) nor the methods used in the production of their food (sustainable vs. conventional production strategies). Moreover, members of the Colgate Community, like those of the world are unaware, misinformed, or simply confused about the concepts and goals of sustainable agriculture and, more specifically, organic farming. Through posters, school-wide teach-ins, guest speakers, films, debates, etc., we hope to educate the Colgate Community on the benefits of “going organic” by deconstructing the myths surrounding alternative forms of agriculture.

Volunteering: To fulfill our goal to service the Hamilton community and bridge the existing gap between town and gown, we volunteer on a weekly/bi-monthly basis at a local organic farm called Green Rabbit Farm, which is owned and run by two members of the Hamilton community. In the future, we will consider expanding our volunteer efforts to benefit a larger contingency of the Hamilton community. Future work could include: working on another local organic farm, which
operates a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), doing odd jobs for local private gardens, working at the Madison Community Group Home garden, etc.

2. **A Student Growth Goal**: In an effort to provide activities that add to the educational and/or personal development for participating Colgate students, we will focus all of our endeavors on promoting education and community service. Through our *internal education campaign* (see above) all members will be equipped with a basic knowledge of sustainable agriculture; and moreover, by engaging in community service, members will have the opportunity to put the ideas regarding sustainable agriculture discussed during weekly teach-ins into practice. In short, community service mutually benefits both parties as students engage in experiential learning and simultaneously provide a valuable service to the community.

3. **A Campus Impact Goal**: To add value to the Colgate community by enhancing the political, intellectual, and ethical climate on campus we must recognize the need to consider the impact of our actions for students who may not be participating members of Greenthumbs. Therefore, we plan to incorporate facets of our external education outlined above as one way of fulfilling this campus impact goal. Moreover, other ideas we had considered as ways of involving more of the Colgate community in activities of Greenthumbs include: tabling at the coop, posterering campus with fun facts concerning sustainable agriculture, et. al., volunteering our services around campus for various organizations or activities (i.e. working at the Class of 2002 Garden), writing a “Did you Know” column for the Maroon News on some a different facet of sustainable agriculture each week, and holding teach-ins for the entire campus.

4. **A Social Change Goal**: To address the problems that make our efforts on campus necessary, we will work on bringing more organic products to Colgate (i.e. food, clothing, etc.). In the future, we could focus our efforts on converting a certain percentage of food available in the dining halls and other food establishments on campus to organic and locally grown produce.

**Mission Statement**  
*Greenthumbs* is a student-run organization whose members are interested in sustainable agriculture and more generally the organic movement.

**Article 3: Values**  
*Greenthumbs* is an organization whose primary focus is based on sustainable agriculture (and more specifically organic farming) and whose purpose it is to inform and educate the Colgate and Hamilton communities about the benefits of going organic. Through community outreach activities on campus as well as in the community we are interested in becoming a vocal entity and accessible resource for sustainable agriculture.

**Article 4: Structure**  
As is, *Greenthumbs* has little structure. All members wield equal decision-making power. However, two group members serve as *The Greenthumbs* (or program heads for
• Responsible for internal education campaign, which includes organizing a schedule for and soliciting members to conduct weekly teach-ins.

Article 5: Members
Any member of the Colgate or Hamilton communities is entitled to join Greenthumbs provided that he/she demonstrates some degree of interest in organic farming and sustainable agriculture. Meetings are conducted on a weekly basis at a specified time and place (preferably kept constant each week). Weekly reminders are sent out regarding meetings and upcoming events to all those on an email distribution list. Members are entitled and even encouraged to bring friends who may be potential member prospects or simply interested in participating in the week’s events.

Article 6: Meetings
Meetings are held on a weekly basis. As there is a designated time and place for meetings, reminders are sent out via email a few days prior to the meeting merely to remind students of the meeting and inform members briefly about events and discussion materials planned for the meeting that week. Goals of meetings are twofold: 1) strengthen the Greenthumbs community and 2) enhance member knowledge base on facets of sustainable agriculture.

Article 7: Voting and Elections
Section 1 – All members have the right to vote and each member’s vote counts equally. For decisions of consequence to be made, a vote is conducted. If the majority of members are not present at the meeting, then the vote conducted through email. At least 50% of the group must be given the opportunity to vote on a specific issue. However, in the case of an email vote, a response deadline must be made explicit detailing the date and time when all votes must be in and after which no votes will be counted. More than 50% of those voting on a particular issue constitutes a majority. The Greenthumbs (program heads) are responsible for all voting matters (i.e. administering and tallying votes).

Section 2 – As there are no officers currently, elections are not held; however, if Greenthumbs were to operate under a hierarchical structure in which a select number of members held positions on the Greenthumbs board, then elections for office would take place on an annual basis in the month of April during the second to last meeting of each year. In such a case, candidates have the opportunity to nominate themselves and/or may be nominated by other members of the group. Once candidates were nominated for all positions, the two current Greenthumbs (position heads) would conduct a secret ballot vote in which case only those present at the meeting would have the opportunity to vote (versus conducting the vote via email). Once elected, each newly-elected candidate must meet with the incumbent prior to the end of the academic year to discuss his/her responsibilities for the upcoming year in office.

Article 8: Amendments
Section 1 – Amendments to this constitution may be introduced by any member of Greenthumbs at any time. All members will have a copy of the constitution for their own
purposes. One meeting per year will be devoted to revision of the constitution during which time, amendments may be made to the constitution. Amendments will be agreed upon by all members of **Greenthumbs** through a vote in which a majority of members must exist for an amendment to be passed.

Section 2 – All members have the opportunity to vote.

Section 3 – All amendments should be discussed and voted on prior to revising the constitution.

**Article 9: Relationship to Volunteer Colgate, The Cove, the Why Board, and OE**

“We are a participating member organization of the umbrella organization Volunteer Colgate. As such, our lead officers will participate in all Volunteer Colgate meetings. As a participating organization of Volunteer Colgate, we are also part of The Cove. The Cove staff will work with us to plan and conduct our activities. The Cove will oversee use of our funds, but we will remain responsible for drafting budgets and for the fiscal health of our organization” (Volunteer Colgate Action Plan Workbook – Winter 2002).

In addition to our affiliation with Volunteer Colgate, the Cove, and the Why Board, **Greenthumbs** also serves as a participating organization under the umbrella organization of Outdoor Education and as such will be responsible for reporting its activities to and coordinating activities and meeting times with the directors of Outdoor Education, Molly Baker and Josh Baker, along with the ENST intern.

**Appendix A**

**BUDGET**

List of Expenses (real and future):
- Food for meetings (estimated cost: $5-$15).
- Potlucks
- Travel expenses (i.e. visiting other student-run farms in university/college settings – gas, food, room).
- Tools – for working on farms and engaging in other green-related activities; (can we make use of those purchased for the use of Outdoor Ed.?).
- Films – purchase of films on sustainable agriculture to be shown as teach-in materials for **Greenthumbs** members as well as the rest of the Colgate and Hamilton communities.
- Guest Speakers – expenses cover: travel costs, food, room, salary/stipend?