5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

Lotus STEMM Saturday, September 9th, 2023

Location: Loafer’s Lake Recreation Centre

**Board members**

Present:

Dr. Vidya Chamundeswari Narasimhan (Chair, Present), Aastha Sahni (Treasurer, Outgoing), Bhavana Uppalapati (Secretary, Present), Ayesha Qureshi (Present), Saira Osmani (Incoming), Sobitha Yugendran (Incoming)

Absent:

Pooja Shree Mishra (Incoming)

1. Chair, Dr. Vidya Chamundeswari Narasimhan:

Good evening. Before we begin, I’d like to invite Bhavana Uppalapati to Acknowledge the Traditional Lands.

2. Secretary, Bhavana Uppalapati

We want to begin by acknowledging the land on which we gather, and on which Lotus STEMM and the Region of Peel operate, is part of the Treaty 19 Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have inhabited and cared for this land. We acknowledge the First Peoples of these lands: the Anishinabe, Attawandaron, and Haudenosaunee; the land that is home to the Métis; and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who are direct descendants of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land, and by doing so, give our respect to its first inhabitants.

I am, alongside my colleagues at Lotus STEMM, a Treaty person; I live and work on Treaty 19 land; I live on the Between the Lakes Purchase Treaty No. 3 territory, of Erie, Neutral Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas. Us being settlers on these lands, we would like to underline the cooperative responsibilities which come with being a Treaty person.

We should continue as settlers living on this land with First Nations and Métis communities to help take care of the land, the water, and the environment as a whole in partnership. Educating oneself on treaties, and stewardship of the land as a settler are both vitally important. We are compelled by the spirit of both Truth and Reconciliation to learn about the treaties, histories, and ongoing Indigenous and settler relations. I am, personally, thinking about the effects of climate change and how late summer's heat lasts every year. This year does feel overall hotter than before. I'm thinking about how human activities such as resource extraction have led to our current predicament. We also have structures which encourage and incentivize seeing land as a resource, rather than a sustainer of life – further tying our economy to land ownership.

So when we think of where we are situated, with our privilege and comfortable lifestyles, we must acknowledge and work to unravel the economic structures which bring about the idea of nature as just a source of resource extraction. I am personally thinking about how capitalism, and settler colonialism, are the continued markers that, as Canadians, we have a long way yet to go for reconciliation to even be conceivable. In my capacity, I hope to be intentional on the continued partnership and stewardship of the land. Like the Mississaugas and allied nations, who have been and still do take care of these lands, we too owe it the same. Please reflect on these realities for yourselves, and consider the interconnected nature of capitalism and settler-colonial violence. Thank you.

3. Opening address by Dr. Vidya Chamundeswari Narasimhan (read chair’s statement)

* Invite Ayesha Qureshi for Keynote

4. Keynote Talk by Ms. Ayesha Qureshi on “Human-Centric Sustainability Approaches to Cultivate a Culture of Long-term Impact in Non-profit Organizations.

5. Chair, Dr. Vidya Chamundeswari:

Thank you Ms. Ayesha Qureshi. This is our 5th Annual General Meeting. I would like to call the meeting to order. The time is:

5:37pm.

The notice for the AGM meeting was duly given.

6. \*Vidya gives her Chair’s statement as listed below: PLACEHOLDER

7. Vidya: We will now move to our more formal part of the AGM. Please note that only board members and paying members are allowed to vote during this section Lotus STEMM.

| Motion (numbered) / Topic | Movers and seconders | Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Vidya makes a motion to appoint the Treasurer.  “Since Amtoj Kaur has resigned, I move that Aastha step in as the Treasurer” | Bhavana Uppalapati | Any discussion. If no, then please vote. All in favour. Any opposed.  The motion is carried.  This motion was completed on Slack in July 2023. It is being added to the AGM meeting minutes. |
| Bhavana welcomes three new board members and invites each member to introduce themselves, briefly (one minute) | 1. Saira Osmani  2. Sobitha Yugendran  3. Pooja Shree Mishra (not present) |  |
| 3a. Aastha Motion: “I move to approve the minutes of May 2023” (attached) | Ayesha Qureshi  Vidya Chamundeswari | https://docs.google.com/document/d/12eI19pNa12ISoisavoR2jlXyw-\_qYK02RibzyIJCh00/edit |
| 3b. Bhavana:  “As secretary, I move that we approve the minutes for the 5th annual general meeting” | Aastha Sahni  Ayesha Qureshi | Any discussion. If no, then please vote. All in favour. Any opposed.  The motion is carried. |
| 4. Bhavana:  “I move that the 2022-2023 Board of Directors be as follows:  - Vidya Chamundeswari Narasimhan, Year 3, Term 2  -Ayesha Qureshi, Year 2, Term 1  -Bhavana Uppalapati, Year 2, Term 1  -Pooja Shree Mishra, Year 1, Term 1  -Saira Osmani, Year 1, Term 1  -Sobitha Yugendran, Year 1, Term 1 | Vidya Chamundeswari  Aastha Sahni | Any discussion. If no, then please vote. All in favour. Any opposed.  The motion is carried. |
| Vidya to invite Aastha Sahni, Treasurer, to present the Financial Report ***(Report at the bottom of minutes)***    Aastha: “I move to approve the Financial Report as presented” | Bhavana Uppalapati  Vidya Chamundeswari | Motion is carried |
| 5. Vidya asks for the adjournment of the meeting  Vidya declares that the business of the meeting is completed and asks for a motion to declare it closed.  Time 5:50pm. “I move that the meeting be declared closed.” | Aastha Sahni  Bhavana Uppalapati | Motion is carried |

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_, Chair\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer’s Report: PLACEHOLDER