



History Commission Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6 pm
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

Present Commissioners: Bill Lyon – Chair, Michael Corbo – Vice Chair, Inez Brown Crouch, Jim Morrisette, Jay Reese
Absent Commissioners: Randy Hilyer, Jason Williams
Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Julia Drayton Crumblin, Michael Williams, Victor Williams, and Evan Williams

I. Call to Order

Chair Bill Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes:

March 10, 2026

March 14, 2026 Retreat Summary

Inez Brown Crouch made a motion to approve; seconded by Bill Lyon, approved.

IV. Public Comments –

Victor and Evan Williams presented wording to the Commission regarding a potential marker at the Sons of Elijah Lodge.

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

The Commission discussed the upcoming themes, and it was suggested that the May 1st market theme of “Parks” should be narrowed to one park; Simeon Pinckney Park for this market. Michael Corbo noted he could produce posters and Jay Reese indicated he would help create a coloring page as the activity.

The Commission noted that the June theme is “Historic Homes” and the Richardson house, Marshlands house, Heyward home, and McLeod home would be featured.

The remaining market themes are:

July & August – NO MARKETS

September – Revolutionary War / Battle of Dill’s Bluff

October – Gullah / Geechee Heritage

November – Native American Heritage Month / Shell Rings

December – History of the Town
January (2027) – Churches / May Forest
February – Black History Month
March – Women’s History Month
April – Parks
May – Historic Markers
June – no theme yet

b. Historic Markers:

Mike Hemmer reviewed the status of the markers in process that were listed on the agenda.

- Three Trees School marker has been received and there are plans underway for the install and unveiling.
- Payne RMUE marker was ordered and paid for in February of 2026 and is being produced at SEWAH.
- St. James Episcopal Church requires wording approval to be sent to SCDAH as submitted to the Commission.

There was a motion by Inez Brown Crouch and second by Bill Lyon to approve the St. James Episcopal Church wording. Then there was a motion by Bill Lyon and second by Michael Corbo to amend the wording with a minor change (the word “Members” was changed to the word “The” to the last line of the text. Motion was approved as amended.

- First Baptist Church information has been sent to SCDAH as of 9/18/2025, but wording has recently been received.
- James Island Presbyterian Church has been sent to SCDAH as of 2/18/2026.
- Joan Sooy grave marker at Holy Cross Cemetery has been ordered. Mayor Lyon will update the Commission when she receives an update that it is going to be installed.

The commission did approve a recommendation to spend up to \$3,000 for the grave marker for the Town’s first Mayor, Joan Sooy along with a minor text correction. Motion and second, unanimously approved.

c. Special Projects:

The Commission briefly discussed the Story Telling Project and noted that not much can occur until the Art and Community Center is constructed and there will likely be a home for this effort in that building.

The Commission discussed the Sea Island Cotton planting. Mayor Lyon noted that there have been donations of Sea Island Cotton seeds and

Commissioner Randy Hillyer worked to germinate the seeds as James Island High School. Bill Lyon, with help from town staff, built a raised box at Mill Point Park where the seedlings can be planted.

Commissioner Inez Brown Crouch indicated she does not even like the word "cotton" and does not want to be involved with this project. Commissioners expressed concern for her but also pointed out that this has been discussed for quite some time at meetings and the workshop and that the intent was always to stay historically focused.

VI. Old Business:

- a. As indicated, the Sons of Elijah Lodge Marker wording was presented.
- b. Bill Lyon noted he was working on the cleanup of the Three Trees marker site.

VII. New Business:

- a. 2027 Goals and Objectives were briefly discussed and noted in the Retreat Summary.
- b. There was brief discussion about getting future market themes more visible via the website, social media, flyers, etc. It was suggested that the market break in July and August might be a good time to regroup on this effort.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

- X.** It was noted that the next regular meeting will be on May 12, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

- XI.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.