



History Commission Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 6 pm

James Island Town Hall

1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Jim Morrisette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present Commissioners: Jim Morrisette, Michael Williams (6:02), Inez Brown Crouch, Tom Robinson, Jay Reese, and Bill Lyon

Absent Commissioners: Randy Hilyer

Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Mike Hemmer

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2025

Motion to approve by Inez Brown Crouch, seconded by Jay Reese; approved.

IV. Public Comments – none

V. Reports:

a. Historic Markers:

Procedure

Mayor Lyon provided a procedure as included in the meeting packets. The Commission fully discussed the need for this noting a need to be consistent with how all applicants that provide are request are treated. There was further discussion on the specific steps of the procedure, budgetary concerns, and the handling of the \$250 fee required by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. It was also noted that the application can be provided on the Town website and these procedures also include the installation steps needed by the Town staff. Mayor Lyon took note of changes to the procedure document and will provide a amended plan at a future meeting.

In-Process

The Mayor updated the commission on the installation of the Skirmish at Grimball Plantation marker along Grimball Road in front of the St. James Presbyterian Foundation property near Seawater Drive. The marker pole is installed and the marker will be finalized and unveiled along with other markers and plans for the site during a ceremony the foundation is having on 9/5/25.

For Consideration

The Commission reviewed the First Baptist Church of James Island application that was provided in the meeting packet. Motion to proceed with the application was made by Inez Brown Crouch and seconded by Michael Williams. After some discussion regarding the idea of rating each application, the motion was approved.

b. Outreach Efforts:

Events – Town Market Booth

The Commission discussed equipment, personnel, and thematic needs for the booth to continue at the Town Markets. It was noted that the next market is on 9/5/25 and personnel and a theme idea are the most pressing decisions to be made. There was discussion of the need for a planning meeting by the subcommittee soon. For themes, it was noted that the past themes could be repeated. Mayor Lyon asked everyone to email ideas to Mike Hemmer by the end of next week and he would develop a list. It was also discussed that the October market will be a fundraiser for James Island Outreach, so a theme could be developed to complement that activity.

Videos

Michael Williams noted that he continues to develop a short video for various markers on the island. These videos could be linked to on the Town website.

c. Projects:

Pinckney Memorial Marker

Michael Williams and Mayor Lyon reported that the monument company has completed the marker replica and has the coordinates of where it should be installed. The Commission discussed an unveiling of the marker at a ceremony on November 15th.

VI. Old Business:

- a. The Commission felt that the historic marker policy and list was discussed earlier in the meeting and didn't merit any further discussion at this time.
- b. There was no other old business.

VII. New Business:

- a. The Commission discussed objectives briefly, with Michael Williams encouraging the Commissioners to consider, for next year, how to bring the history of James Island to the residents. Williams also discussed the overall work planning worksheet and noted specific actions. Jim Morrisett noted it would be important to try to keep a focus on the Revolutionary War for next year to further access some grant funding. Website improvements were also discussed.

- b. Michael Williams briefly noted the need for a volunteer clean-up crew for pending historical marker locations. This could be conducted prior to marker installations and ceremonies.
- c. There was no other business brought before the Commission.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

There were no comments.

- X.** It was noted that the next meeting will be September 9, 2025 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

- XI.** There being no further business, Inez Brown Crouch moved to adjourn at 7:29 pm, Michael Williams seconded; meeting was adjourned.

Minutes provided by:

Mike Hemmer