



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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Brook Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present Commissioners: Michael Williams – Chair, Michael Corbo, Inez Brown Crouch, Randy Hilyer, and Bill Lyon
Absent Commissioners: Jim Morrisette – Vice Chair and Jay Reese
Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Mike Hemmer

Chair Michael Williams welcomed everyone and introduced newly appointed member Michael Corbo. Williams also noted this will be his last meeting as Chair due to his election to Town Council and that he hopes to continue attending as Council liaison.

II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

After discussion, Williams made a motion to nominate Bill Lyon as Chair and Michael Corbo as Vice Chair, Inez Brown Crouch seconded; motion passed.

III. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

IV. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2025

Motion to approve by Williams, seconded by Lyon; approved.

V. Public Comments – none

VI. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

Discussion occurred regarding the December market but primarily centered on the upcoming January 9th market on Friday. The theme is the Revolutionary War and commissioner Morrisette developed a quiz for booth attendees. Bill Lyon noted that he, Inez, and Michael Corbo are prepared to setup and man the booth.

The upcoming market themes remain:

February 6, 2026:	Black History / Segregation
March 6, 2026:	Historical Marker Program
April 3, 2026:	Lawton Bluff
May 1, 2026:	Gullah Geechee History
June 5, 2026:	Simeon Pinckney Park
September 4, 2026:	Sea Island Lodge and Mosquito Fleet

b. Historic Markers:

In-Process

Mike Hemmer noted the status of the active applications:

- Three Trees marker is fully submitted (12/17/25).
- Payne RMUE needs final approval. Inez will check on wording one last time.
- St. James Episcopal has been submitted (5/27/25).
- First Baptist has been submitted (9/18/25).
- James Island Presbyterian needs additional information for write-up and location details.

For consideration

The Commission discussed the Sons of Elijah / 56 Men application. Hemmer noted he discussed the application with Edwin Breeden of SCDAH and the application would have to be centered on the Lodge as the location. Mr. Breeden didn't think the "56 Men" portion would be more than a paragraph on one side. Michael Williams motioned to proceed with the application, but try to get a write-up from Mr. Victor Williams so the marker can be influenced in the "56 Men" direction; seconded by Bill Lyon; motion approved.

c. Special Projects:

Michael Williams noted he will continue to work on clean-up groups for marker sites; likely prioritizing Battery Cheves as the next clean-up.

VII. Old Business:

- a. There was discussion regarding the retreat at Mill Point with the date of March 14th and a starting time of 1:00 pm being decided upon.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Michael Corbo discussed a historic marker inventory and indicated this would be a good addition to the Town website.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

None

- X.** It was noted that the next meeting will be on February 10, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

- XI.** There being no further business, Bill Lyon moved to adjourn at 7:08 pm, Randy Hillyer seconded; meeting was adjourned.