History Commission Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 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, Jason Williams
Absent Commissioners:	Randy Hilyer, Jay Reese
Other Attendees:	Mayor Brook Lyon, Councilwoman Julia Drayton-Crumblin, Henrietta Martin, and Mike Hemmer, staff liaison

I. Call to Order

Chair Bill Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 8 2026

Inez Brown Crouch made a motion to approve the September 8, 2026 minutes. Michael Corbo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Public Comments

Henrietta Martin discussed a proposed Grace Triangle marker and possible locations, referring to the Washington Park monument and Three Trees School marker as examples. She suggested a marker for the Greenhill and Seaside Lane area, read a passage about the neighborhood, and identified an early structure on Seaside Lane.

V. Reports

a. Town Market Outreach

The October Town Market had a strong turnout, and the History Commission exhibit was well attended. Michael Corbo and Councilwoman Julia Drayton-Crumblin prepared the display posters.

The November exhibit will focus on Native American heritage and shell rings. Existing posters and shell-ring research collected in a binder may be used. The December Town history exhibit can also use existing posters.

The revised market schedule discussed was:

- November - Native American Heritage Month / Shell Rings
- December - History of the Town
- January 2027 - Churches
- February 2027 – Black History Month
- March 2027 – Women’s History Month
- April 2027 – Parks
- May 2027 – Historic Markers

- June 2027 – May Forest

Future Forts of James Island

b. Historic Markers

The Commission reviewed the following marker projects:

- Payne RMUE - The dedication was scheduled for Sunday, October 18 at 12:30 pm. Members assisting with the program were asked to arrive at 11:30 am.
- St. James Episcopal Church - The marker remains on the project list; no additional update was reported.
- First Baptist Church of James Island - The marker remains on the project list; no additional update was reported.
- James Island Presbyterian Church - Inez Brown Crouch made a motion to approve the marker wording. Michael Corbo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Joan Sooy / Holy Cross Cemetery - The unveiling was scheduled for Sunday, November 1 at 2 pm at Holy Cross Cemetery. Ms. Sooy's daughter from Raleigh was expected to attend.
- Proposed neighborhood markers - Members discussed proceeding with wording for a Grace Triangle community marker with a possible location on Dills Bluff Road at Seaside.

Historic Marker Site Cleanup: The November 21 Battery Cheves cleanup was discussed, including substantial overgrowth and the availability of other organizations to assist. Jason Williams made a motion to proceed, seconded by Inez Brown Crouch. The motion was approved.

c. Special Projects

Storytelling Program: Members discussed a portable recorder costing less than $100 and startup costs of a few hundred dollars. Henrietta Martin's story was cited as an example to record. Editing and transcription assistance, podcasts, recording releases, and hosting on YouTube or the Town website were discussed. The website may need expansion. Members also discussed Lowcountry Digital and pilot recordings ahead of the anticipated June 2027 opening of the Art and Community Center.

VI. Old Business

No additional action was taken under old business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Members noted that the next Town Market would be held November 6.

IX. Next Meeting Reminder

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Minutes provided by: Mike Hemmer