



History Commission Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 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, Jason Williams
Absent Commissioners: Jay Reese, Jim Morrisette, Randy Hilyer
Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Mike Hemmer, Sarah Tipton, and Rob Dunlap

I. Call to Order

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

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2026

Michael Corbo made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Inez Brown Crouch. The motion was approved.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

The Commission reported that the June Town Market exhibit on historic homes was successful. The exhibit featured the Heyward, Marshlands, and Richardson houses. The discussion included the history of Marshlands and its relocation to Fort Johnson. Sarah Tipton offered to assist with additional information about the Richardson House.

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:

The Commission reviewed the following marker updates:

- The Three Trees School marker project is complete.
- The Payne RMUE marker remains in production.
- The marker for St. James Episcopal Church remains in production.
- Revised wording for the First Baptist Church of James Island marker will be circulated to the Commission and the church for review.
- The James Island Presbyterian Church marker remains under review.
- The Joan Sooy permanent marker at Holy Cross Cemetery is expected to be available in the fall. The Commission may be able to coordinate with Ms. Sooy's daughter.

c. Special Projects:

The Commission discussed the Story Telling Project and possible examples from oral-history and walking-history projects in Mount Pleasant. Members also discussed exploring related programs through the Wando Mount Pleasant Library and ways to incorporate storytelling into future Town Market outreach.

VI. Old Business

The Commission discussed future cleanup of historic marker sites. No cleanup date was set. Bill Lyon will continue coordinating with neighborhood representatives as appropriate.

VII. New Business:

Inez Brown Crouch made a motion not to hold regular meetings in July or August; seconded by Michael Corbo. The motion was approved. The Commission will use the break to prepare for the September Town Market.

VIII. Commissioner Comments:

Sarah Tipton discussed the Richardson House and provided a handout. She emphasized the importance of telling the property's story and discussed site concerns, including grading, congestion on Camp Road, and nearby development activity. She also described goals of stabilizing and restoring the house and pursuing National Register recognition.

IX. Next Meeting Reminders

There will be no regular meetings in July or August. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.