



History Commission Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6 pm
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Bill Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2026

Jim Morrisette made a motion to approve the minutes with a wording change; seconded by Michael Corbo, approved.

IV. Public Comments – none

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

The Commission discussed the upcoming May market that had been rescheduled from the first Friday to the upcoming Friday the 15th. The theme is “Parks” but is focused on Simeon Pinckney Park. All materials are prepared and ready to go and were shown to the commissioners.

The Commissioners 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:

The Three Trees School marker unveiling is set for this Thursday, May 14th at 10:30 am. There will be food and several attendees, including students from the high school.

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

- Payne RMUE marker was ordered and paid for in February of 2026 and is being produced at SEWAH.
- St. James Episcopal Church location is confirmed, and the marker has been ordered and is in production.
- The First Baptist Church information has been sent to SCDAH and wording with significant changes was sent back to the church. As of this meeting, there has been no indication that the church agrees to these changes, so the Commission cannot approve and proceed yet.
- 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 and is in production. Mayor Lyon will update the Commission when she receives an update that it is going to be installed.

Bill Lyon addressed the clean-up of marker sites noting that he is working to get the Three Trees site ready.

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. It remains on the agenda so the idea is not forgotten.

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business:

- a. Mike Hemmer noted that the Town Budget will be introduced at the Council meeting on the 21st and that the History Commission budget is \$20,000 for 2026-2027. This is a significant increase over the \$5,000 in previous years.

VIII. Commissioner Comments:

Jim Morrisette noted that with the Market break coming, there will not be another meeting prior to the last Market in June. The Commissioners discussed taking a break

for July and August too, but there was no real direction to do so and the group generally seemed to feel they would still like to meet.

- IX.** It was noted that the next regular meeting will be on June 9, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.
- X.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes provided by: Mike Hemmer