



**History Commission Minutes**  
Tuesday, February 10, 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, Randy Hilyer, Jim Morrisette, Jay Reese  
Absent Commissioners: none  
Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Julia Drayton Crumblin, Michael Williams, Amy O’Rourke, Susan Milliken, and Mike

**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 from January 6, 2026**

Motion to approve by Inez Brown Crouch, seconded by Michael Corbo; approved.

**IV. Public Comments –**

Susan Millikin addressed the commission regarding the importance of Black History Month and stated that she was concerned about the lack of events to commemorate Black History Month. She said there were no town events and no promotion and that the commission, the Town, the past administration, and the current administration have seemed to overlook this opportunity. She also doesn’t feel that there is any support from the State or Federal government for the effort. The commission members noted that the theme of the History Commission’s Town Market booth for February was Black History on James Island and there were many attendees at the market. It was also noted that the Town passes a Black History Month resolution and that the Town could promote the market booth with a website page and do better next year.

**V. Reports:**

a. Town Market Outreach:

Discussion occurred regarding the February market and what kind of game could be included with the March market since the quiz at the January market went over well. Commissioners Reese, Morrisette, and Corbo noted that they would meet and try to develop a plan for the March booth, which will focus on the Historical Markers on James Island.

The upcoming market themes remain:

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 Farmers Lodge and Mosquito Beach

b. Historic Markers:

In-Process

Mike Hemmer noted the status of the active applications:

- Three Trees marker is in production with SEWAH.
- Payne RMUE marker has been fully submitted (2/6/26).
- St. James Episcopal submitted, needs text approval.
- First Baptist has been submitted (9/18/25).
- James Island Presbyterian will meet with Mayor and Bill regarding location details.
- Sons of Elijah/56 Men not yet fully submitted.

c. Special Projects:

Michael Williams noted he spoke with a representative of the Battlefield Trust and they verbally approved that he could go and clean-up around Battery Cheves. He noted he will plan this and Randy Hilyer added he may be able to get some student help for this site and the Three Trees School marker installation.

**VI. Old Business:**

- a. There was discussion regarding the retreat at Mill Point with the date of March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. The outline of goals that was discussed at the 2025 retreat was noted and commissioners would be sent an email to respond with additional topics prior to the March 14 date.

**VII. New Business:**

- a. Mayor Lyon reported that the First Mayor of James Island, Joan Sooy, is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in a grave with no permanent marker. Her son brought this to Mayor Lyon's attention and Mayor Lyon asked if the History Commission would make a recommendation to pursue having a permanent marker placed to help commemorate her. Mayor Lyon noted that the History Commission's budget would have to be amended to allow for this added expense.

Bill Lyon motioned to recommend to Town Council that the History Commission proceed with obtaining a permanent marker for Mayor Sooy, Inez Brown Crouch seconded; motion passed.

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

Inez Brown Crouch noted that this is such a great group and that everyone can find an interest in our current work efforts.

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

**XI.** There being no further business, Bill Lyon moved to adjourn at 6:46 pm, Jay Reese seconded; meeting was adjourned.

Minutes provided by: Mike Hemmer