



History Commission Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 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

Absent Commissioners: Randy Hilyer, Jay Reese, Jason Williams

Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Councilmembers Julia Drayton-Crumblin and Michael O. Williams, Mike Hemmer, Victor Williams, and Doug McIntyre

I. Call to Order

Chair Bill Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2026

Inez Brown Crouch made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to Section VI, Old Business. The correction replaces Mike Hemmer with Michael Williams and Bill Lyon as the members who will continue coordinating with neighborhood representatives. Michael Corbo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

The September Town Market exhibit on the Battle of Dill's Bluff and Colonel Tadeusz Kosciuszko was well attended.

The Commission discussed the October Gullah / Geechee Heritage exhibit. Members agreed that the broad topic should be narrowed and that more display material is needed. Michael Corbo and Councilwoman Julia Drayton-Crumblin will develop a focused timeline and display using available books and contacts. Possible subjects included Sol Legare, Mosquito Beach, and the former lodge.

The remaining market themes are:

- November - Native American Heritage Month / Shell Rings
- December - History of the Town
- January (2027) - Churches
- February - Black History Month
- March - Women's History Month
- April - Parks

- May - Historic Markers
- June - May Forest

Councilman Michael O. Williams suggested that the forts of James Island be considered for a future Town Market theme.

b. Historic Markers:

The Commission reviewed the following marker updates:

- The Payne RMUE and St. James Episcopal Church markers remain in production.
- The revised wording for the First Baptist Church of James Island marker has been approved; the marker location still needs to be confirmed.
- The James Island Presbyterian Church marker materials were sent to SCDAH, and receipt was confirmed.
- The Joan Sooy marker at Holy Cross Cemetery has been received and installed and will remain covered until the unveiling. The Commission discussed a tentative unveiling on Saturday, October 17 at 1 pm, with music and refreshments. The nearby grave marker for Ms. Sooy's mother is sinking and needs repair.
- Bill Lyon suggested a historic marker for Grace Triangle. The Honey Hill Neighborhood Association may be able to assist, and a location must be identified.

Historic Marker Site Cleanup: The Commission discussed a November 21 cleanup at Battery Cheves in coordination with James Island Pride and the Neighborhood Council. A sign-up sheet will be circulated, and additional sites may be included if participation is strong. The event time has not been set.

c. Special Projects:

Storytelling Program: Michael Corbo reported continued coordination with the Wando Mount Pleasant Library to get ideas for our program, and he noted an October 12 presentation he was going to attend. Corbo expects to provide a fuller update in November.

Richardson House: Sarah Tipton provided an update and offered a possible tour so Commission members can consider ways to assist. The property is expected to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mayor Lyon will follow-up with her.

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business:

The Commission discussed priorities and its work plan for 2026-2027. Rod Welch is collecting photographs of early James Island. Members discussed a display at the new James Island Arts and Cultural Center and inviting Mr. Welch to a future meeting.

Members were encouraged to complete and share the SCDAH preservation planning survey. The Commission also discussed an Evergreen Cemetery proposal expected to go before Town Council later in the month.

VIII. Commissioner Comments - none

IX. Next Meeting Reminders

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

X. Adjournment

Inez Brown Crouch made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Michael Corbo. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Minutes provided by: Mike Hemmer