



History Commission Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6 pm
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

I. Call to Order

Co-Chairman Michael Williams called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present: Commissioners: Michael Williams, Inez Brown Crouch, Tom Robinson, and Bill Lyon

Other Attendees: Mayor Brook Lyon, Mike Hemmer (staff liaison)

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes from April 8, 2025

Motion to approve by Bill Lyon, seconded by Michael Williams; approved.

IV. Public Comments – none

V. Reports:

a. Historic Markers in Progress:

Hemmer reported on the status of recent marker submittals and noted that, with an 18-month timeframe, we could do the preparation work of knowing where a marker is to go well before the marker is received by the Town. The process is that the marker is applied for (\$250) and until the bill comes for the creation of the marker (\$3,000) there is time to prepare the site.

The Commission also discussed a timeline for responding to groups that apply, communication with the groups regarding their markers, and building a “pipeline” of markers. It was noted that the budget can’t really consider an 18-month to 2-year timeframe easily.

The Seashore Farmer’s Lodge marker is in process and should be installed by June 7; after which Cubby Wilder will host an unveiling ceremony.

FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Payne RME Church – Motion to apply by Inez Brown Crouch, second by Bill Lyon – APPROVED

- St. James Episcopal Church – Motion to apply by Bill Lyon, second by Inez Brown Crouch - APPROVED

It was noted that the St. James application may need more information.

b. Outreach Efforts:

The Commission discussed recent events since the last meeting and noted that the plan for the booth at the Town Market remains to center around a them for each event. The subcommittee continues to look for ideas.

Michael Williams noted he is still working on developing videos, but the Commission may want to figure out how to play the videos in the market booth.

c. Special Projects:

- Pinckney Memorial Marker:

There are no updates at this time. The monument company is creating the marker and plaque. Once complete, the Town will schedule a presentation ceremony.

VI. Old Business:

- a. The historic marker policy and list was discussed. The only suggestions for an index, if we have several marker applications to choose from, are #1 – Local Significance, #2 – National Recognition, and #3 – Availability of Resource Materials. The Commission also discussed the idea of if a marker application is actually located within the Town limits of James Island and seemed to feel that this may be an issue if there are many applications or if there are budgetary concerns.
- b. The Goals and Objectives were also briefly discussed, with the Commission noting that next year is really the planning period.

VII. New Business:

- a. Related to the Goals and Objectives, Michael Williams provided a spreadsheet he is developing where all activities of the Commission could be tracked.
- b. Tom Robinson also discussed the issues with the sweetgrass theme and the associated vendor at the April market. He reported that maybe we will have a vendor at the May market and be able to fully provide that theme.

VIII. Commissioner Comments:

Inez Brown Crouch noted how energetic the Commission remains and how pleased she is with the Town Markets.

- X. It was noted that the next meeting will be June 10, 2025 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

- XI.** There being no further business, Inez Brown Crouch moved to adjourn at 7:29 pm, Michael Williams seconded; meeting was adjourned.

Minutes provided by:

Mike Hemmer, staff liaison