



History Commission Minutes
Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6 pm
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Williams called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

Chair Williams explained that Commissioner Tom Robinson has resigned, and he has brought Ms. Erica Fritz with him tonight as a potential candidate to propose to the Council for appointment.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2025

Motion to approve by Bill Lyon, seconded by Inez Brown Crouch; approved.

IV. Public Comments – Erica Fritz provided the commission a brief review of her time on James Island, work experience as a biologist with the Army Corp of Engineers, and her interest in history, the environment, and people.

Victor Williams again spoke to the group regarding his work on the Sons of Elijah Masonic Lodge historic marker and indicated he would like some help with the paperwork if possible.

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

Bill Lyon reported on the September market and booth, noting it was well-attended. Bill has plans to make stands for the booth displays from cedar wood and would like to donate a battery to run a video display. Inez Brown Crouch noted that the booth is used to promote the history of James Island and the Commission. Inez noted she couldn't be at the October market due to a conflict with the High School Hall of Fame program.

Michael Williams noted that the three basic personnel/volunteer slots are for 1) Developing the Themes/Displays; 2) Setup/Teardown of the booth; and 3) Manning the booth during the market.

Themes for the market were discussed, and it was generally agreed upon that they should be set months in advance. Inez proposed meeting with a subcommittee outside the full meeting to develop a list and attending displays for the booth. This subcommittee would be Inez, Bill, and Erica Fritz. Jay Reese volunteered to man the October market booth and can help with the setup and teardown.

The October market theme was discussed. Mill Point was proposed. Inez noted that the Commission should look for new help each market so that the same people do not get worn-out. There was discussion to approach Ms. Mangum for National Honor Society students to help.

The Commission also discussed that the November and December themes should be ready to go by the next meeting so we are not spending time deciding rehashing every theme at the full meeting.

b. Historic Markers:

Procedure

The amended procedure document and will be provided at a future meeting.

In-Process

Mike Hemmer reported that the First Baptist Church Application is complete and will be accepted by the SC Department of Archives and that he will mail it, along with the check, shortly.

It was noted that Three Trees School, Payne RMUE, St. James Episcopal Church, and First Baptist Church of James Island are currently submitted, in that order. There was discussion about the need to contact representatives of the property nearby these markers to know where the marker will be installed, well before the marker is received by the Town. Michael Williams indicated this is also critical for the idea of clean-up groups/crews to prep the marker sites in advance.

For Consideration

Victor Williams requested reconsideration for the Masonic Lodge marker. The Commission noted that there are several markers in process and new markers at this point will be years off. Mr. Williams noted that the lodge would like to proceed themselves to save time, but he needs help with the paperwork. The Commission indicated they could review his documents when he has them ready.

Videos

Michael Williams noted that he continues to develop a short video for various markers on the island. These videos could be linked to on the Town website.

c. **Video Productions:**

Michael Williams noted that production is at a standstill for the moment.

d. **Special Projects:**

Pinckney Memorial Marker

Michael Williams and Mayor Lyon noted that the monument company should install in early November and the Town is planning a public ceremony on November 15th. The Commission suggested that has completed the marker replica and has the coordinates of where it should be installed. The Commission discussed an unveiling of the marker at a ceremony on November 15th. It was suggested that this may conflict with the high school football playoff schedule.

VI. Old Business:

- a. There was no old business.

VII. New Business:

- a. The Commission briefly touched upon 2026 Objectives and Michael Williams indicate he would update and invite the Commission to use the overall Google Doc spreadsheet for work he has developed.
- b. There was no other business brought before the Commission.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

There were no comments.

X. It was noted that the next meeting will be October 14, 2025 at 6 pm at James Island Town Hall.

XI. There being no further business, Bill Lyon moved to adjourn at 7:06 pm, Inez Brown Crouch seconded; meeting was adjourned.

Minutes provided by:

Mike Hemmer