



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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Brook Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

Bill Lyon welcomed everyone and noted that Chair Williams nor Vice Chair Morrisett could make the meeting this evening. Bill Lyon chaired the meeting in their absence.

II. Changes to / Approval of Agenda - none

III. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2025

Motion to approve by Inez Brown Crouch, seconded by Jay Reese; approved.

IV. Public Comments – none

V. Reports:

a. Town Market Outreach:

Commissioners noted that the December market theme would be the history of the Town. The January market, which will be moved back to the 9th, will feature the Revolutionary War. Since the market will be moved back, the History Commission meeting will move up to the 6th so we can meet before the market.

For the Revolutionary War theme, Jim Morrisette has had a poster produced, which Bill Lyon provided tonight. Bill also noted that Jim has developed a quiz, but he feels we need more photos or other displays.

The upcoming market themes remain:

December 5, 2025:	History of the Town
January 9, 2026:	The Revolutionary War
February 6, 2026:	Black History / Segregation
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 Lodge and Mosquito Fleet

b. Historic Markers:

In-Process

Mike Hemmer noted the status of the active applications:

- Three Trees requires final Town approval and the marker order form, along with the check. This will be completed soon. The location will be along Fort Johnson Road, but back far enough on the property owner's property to be out of the right-of-way.
- Payne RMUE has been submitted (5/22/25). SCDAAH has asked for a copy of the 1947 deed.
- St. James Episcopal has been submitted (5/27/25)
- First Baptist has been submitted (9/8/25)

For consideration

The Commission discussed the submittal of the James Island Presbyterian Church application. Hemmer noted they have included a check, but there is no suggested write-up. Inez Brown Crouch motioned to proceed with the application, Randy Hillyer seconded; motion approved. However, no clear direction was stated regarding the wording suggestion.

Additionally, Mr. Vic Williams submitted an application, with a check, for the "Original 56 Men" application for the Sons of Elijah Lodge #457. Hemmer noted he would review and get this to the commission for their next meeting.

c. Special Projects:

Pinckney Memorial Marker Unveiling Recap

Mayor Lyon provided an update on the November 15th unveiling celebration, noting it was well attended, a beautiful day, and an overall very good event.

Jay Reese briefly noted that the Department of Natural Resources event on the 11th was going to be handled by Michael Williams.

VI. Old Business:

- a. There was some discussion regarding the retreat idea. Hemmer noted the prior retreat was in November. There was no set decision made other than that the commission generally agreed on a Saturday at about 1 pm at Mill Point Park.
- b. A Field Day to visit existing historical markers was briefly discussed and it was noted that this could be combined with the retreat. It was then decided that members could tour markers on their own due to time constraints.

VII. New Business:

- a. A discussion of new History Commission appointments occurred. With Michael Corbo from the Charleston County Public Library in attendance and willing to serve on the Commission. Bill Lyon moved and Randy Hillyer seconded a motion to request that the Town Council appoint Mr. Corbo; motion approved.
- b. There was no other business brought before the Commission.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

Inez Brown Crouch noted that she met with the middle school principal and she would like to work with the commission and the town to find ways to involve the students.

Bill Lyon noted the High School Football team's recent season and that it was good to see coach Randy Hillyer. Randy reported on the team's success.

Inez Brown Crouch noted that on the 17th she would be hosting a tree trimming drop-in party and Bill Lyon noted that the Town Christmas party was on the 10th.

Inez also reported on improvements going on in Stephen Washington park.

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

- XI.** There being no further business, Randy Hillyer moved to adjourn at 7:00 pm, Bill Lyon seconded; meeting was adjourned.

Minutes provided by:

Mike Hemmer