

James Island History Commission
Minutes
Tuesday December 1, 2015

The James Island History Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 in the Conference Room at the James Island Town Hall. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by chair Paul Hedden. The following members were in attendance: Inez Brown-Crouch, Skipper Keith, Ashley Welsh, Martha Bracks-Matthews, and Council liaison Mayor Bill Woolsey. Also attending were Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator and James Island resident, June Murray.

Old Business: Chairman Hedden passed out an outline of procedures for conducting History Commission meetings. He reviewed the procedures with the body and stressed the need for following an agenda and attendees present having decorum.

Old Business: Chairman Hedden discussed his proposed submission to the State Archives & History for a Historic Marker commemorating the Battle of Dills Bluff. He recommended the country size marker, and said the text he provided will likely be edited upon submission. The location is still unknown. While the general vicinity of the battle is known to be near Dills Bluff where it turns into North Shore Drive, the final location will depend greatly on where SCDOT will issue an encroachment permit. The History Commission's budget currently contains \$1,000. Mayor Woolsey suggested it would be in order for the Commission to make a motion to approve the application for submission and that it would then go to Town Council for approval to include funding. Chairman Hedden asked the Commission to move to approve sending the application to Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Commissioner Brown-Crouch presented her research into of the Life of Simeon Pinckney and read excerpts for her report to the group. Commissioner Brown-Crouch noted while it was difficult to track down a lot of information on him, she went to the Charleston County Library and was able to locate Census records. She noted there were lots of unknown questions including how did he come to Charleston? How did he come about his land ownership? What year was he born? She noted there were 244 free black men on James Island before the Civil War. It is believed Pinckney came to Charleston by way of Manning, SC. Dr. Murray noted she spoke with a descendent of Pinckney who felt he came from North Carolina before making his way to the Charleston area. Chairman Hedden asked if Commissioner Brown-Crouch had spoken with Eugene Frasier for any of her research, and she said no, that she only included information that had been documented. Commissioner Keith offered the Freemans Bureau at the SC Historic Society might be a good resource to find out more information on Simeon Pinckney. Mayor Woolsey thanked Commissioner Brown-Crouch for her work thus far and encouraged her to continue.

Chairman Hedden presented other new business with a brief discussion about the original Jamestowne settlement on James Island. He believes from his research it is near new cut creek, and was settled sometime in the 1600's.

Without any further new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Submitted by Ashley Kellahan