

**KINGSTON, 1937
BOOK 1730, PAGE 476**

TOWN LANDING

The Town Wharf and Public Access to the Jones River

Rebuilt in 2013 by the Waterfront Committee with Community Preservation Funds

Despite the historical importance of the waterfront to Kingston residents, by the early 20th century, access to the Jones River was difficult. Both commercial and recreational use of Kingston's waterways suffered as the shoreline was developed and houses were put up. In 1936, town officials identified and purchased a parcel of land just upriver from the stone wharf at the foot of River Street to secure public access to the Jones River and Kingston Bay beyond.

Known as the Nook, the western shore of the mouth of the Jones River was a mix of farms and underdeveloped land until the late 19th century when a stone wharf was constructed. It was first used by private boaters, then leased by the Kingston Yacht Club and eventually opened to fishermen and recreational users. In 1935, the wharf was raised and extended as part of a state relief project.

The 1937 purchase added this area to the town's public spaces. In 1999, Independence Park was created on the site. In 2013, the Town Wharf was restored, and in 2014, formally re-dedicated as the Jeffrey S. Bond Memorial Pier. Such efforts ensure that Kingston residents have safe access to the waterfront for years to come.

**Compliments of Register of Deeds, John R. Buckley, Jr. and
Susan Aprill, Archivist
Kingston Public Library, Local History Room**