

KENT VILLAGE

Affordable elderly housing on the South Shore

Kent Village, located in Scituate, Massachusetts, was one of the first developments permitted in Massachusetts under the Chapter 40B comprehensive permit law. Originally approved in 1973, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs persevered through 10 years of litigation in which all objections to the proposed housing were overruled, which included two appeals to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. In the first instance, the Massachusetts SJC established the legality of religious institutions participating in government-assisted housing programs. Immediately, after this decision the Scituate Board of Appeals issued a comprehensive permit under Chapter 40B, which would have enabled Kent Village to proceed. However, eight residents of the town sued POUA and the Archdiocese in order to prevent construction of the housing. On May 10, 1979, the Massachusetts SJC denied Certiorari and, for the second time, affirmed the right of the Archdiocese to construct racially integrated, low-income and moderate-income housing on church property.

Ultimately constructed in the early 1980s, Kent Village includes 64 rental units: 24 one-bedroom, 19 two-bedroom, 17 three-bedroom, and 4 four-bedroom units, and it has been fully occupied since 1984. Nearby, Rivermoor Habitat Park and Scituate Harbor provide walking trails and ocean views for residents. Kent Village is ideally situated in close proximity to a variety of transportation options, as Route 3 is a ten-minute drive from the community, and a stop on the Greenbush MBTA line is less than a mile away. For nearly 40 years, Kent Village has been an important affordable housing resource in the Scituate community.

