



Town of North Smithfield Historic District Commission

November 18, 2013

To: Union Village & Slatersville and Forestdale School Historic District Property Owners

Gas Meter Relocation

F.Y.I.: Know the Law Know your Rights

It has come to the attention of the North Smithfield Historic District Commission that National Grid is in the process of relocating existing gas meters in town. Please be advised that for those property owners who maintain homes in a historic district, the State of Rhode Island amended the General Laws, Title 45, regarding Historical Area Zoning; specifically, section 45-24.1-4(2)(b), which essentially states that the homeowner or public utility must apply for and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District Commission. While this is currently state law, The North Smithfield Historic District Commission recommends that the homeowner first attempt to confer and negotiate with the public utility about the proposed location of a gas meter prior to installing a new one or relocating an existing gas meter.

If a reasonable solution cannot be determined to the satisfaction of either party, the affected party can state their objection and seek to apply for and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission. In applying, the owner or public utility must comply with application procedures established by the Commission, and the Commission shall require the owner or public utility to submit information which is reasonably necessary to evaluate the proposed construction, alteration, repair, removal, or demolition, including, but not limited to, plans, drawings, photographs, or other information. All of this would be in addition to complying with the local ordinance on obtaining a permit from the local building official.

Please feel free to contact the Commission to answer any questions or for any further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
North Smithfield Historic District Commission,
North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Jeffrey Harris, *Chairman*
Christian de Rezendes
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Elizabeth Martin

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