

Nicole Murati Ferrer
Chairperson

Mark Melo
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea
Superintendent of Streets

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

Commission Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melo, and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant.

Advisor: Stephen Lenkauskas, Retired City Electrician.

Documents Considered by the Board: As to all petitions, the Commission considered the application submitted to it and all documents attached thereto.

Decisions: All votes, unless otherwise stated, were taken by roll call vote and were 3-0, unless otherwise indicated. When matters are granted with "typical conditions," those are:

- (1) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit and Department of Public Works ("DPW") Permits and comply with the provisions therein.
- (2) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- (3) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- (4) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- (5) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

1. Continuation from May 18, 2023 to receive updated engineering drawings (220970) - Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Broadway - Digging a 10-foot long trench to install conduit for a flashing beacon from an Eversource manhole to the beacon foundation.

Present: Dana Benjamin.

Summary: This is for 356 Broadway in Rindge and Latin School to place a new flashing beacon. There will need to be permanent sidewalk restoration and add a handhole, prior to the manhole. There has to be coordination with Eversource – very close to their structure (before the handhole)

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions: must add a handhole ; must coordinate with Eversource prior to placing the handhole; and permanent sidewalk restoration is required.

2. New petition (223217) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Canal Park Drive - Place (2) 4-inch PVC conduits (1 CNS & 1 City Shadow) from CNS handhole to Cambridge/DCR property line by Cambridgeside Place.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: To extend conduit off petition approved 2 months ago – trying to get service to 10 Canal Park which is north of the location, tried to license from Verizon but they said no, so this is the closest one. This is private property along with DCR property. In terms of needs for the City, the City will need a conduit to feed the fire alarm. There was discussion how in the future they just need to send an email to the Commission rather than file a petition; if at that point it is determined a grant is needed, then they will be informed.

Decision: Denied as the Commission has no jurisdiction.

3. New petition (224421) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Franklin Street - Place 240 feet of (1) 0.625-inch cable in existing Crown Castle 4-foot conduit from the building at 55 Franklin Street to Univpark manhole #5 on Franklin Street. No excavation required.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: Brace a cable and an existing conduit that is a common manhole that originates for to give service to 55 Franklin. There was a previous common trench but Comcast declined to participate. They have since received a request form the building to provide service. They are going to share the Crown Castle's conduit and will not be taking over the City's conduit.

Decision: Granted.

4. New petition (215088) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Vassar Street - Verizon to install 603 feet of new conduit and proposed manhole #526E on Vassar Street.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Rights to this customer place for a project for MIT, 215 Vassar Street. They are trying to get aerial cable out of the way and building a duct to make connections; will place a manhole. Long process, this is part of MIT project to remove utility pole and cell tower. Not sure why going further than anticipated and as discussed in the site meeting. Get rights to use the conduit already placed by the customer – but the existing conduit is not in the entire route identified on the plan. Pole 79 is way out and they are going to 77. Pole 73 is being removed, and 75 is where the handhold is going to be and that is where they stop. Direct conflict with Eversource transmission project. Will have aerial from 75-77. There is no need for the road. Already conduit for Verizon. No need for extra work. They are trying to avoid digging in conflict with Eversource transmission lines. Grant of location for conduit. DPW all Verizon and Crown Castle permits hold because waiting for months for City projects on Gore Street.

Decision: Denied already approved, the additional work is unnecessary.

5. New petition (223743) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Northerly from MHC531, at First Street to private property at 124 Cambridge Street, install approximately 53 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for electric service to new traffic light control box. Has seen this before and where asked to explore existing conduit. The January 21, 2022 project denied if see if spare; in March City not ready due to construction on the area.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. New petition (225588) - Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090, for the following: Albany Street - Existing gas regulator station upgrade. Relocate/replace (1) mechanical cabinet with buried gas lines, conduit and appurtenances within Albany Street at the Main Street sidewalk. Install (1) electrical cabinet with bollards, connected with (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC installed to the nearest electric pole on opposite side of Albany Street and (1) 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC to the nearest telecommunication manhole within the intersection of Albany Street and Main Street. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

Present: James Blais, Eversource (gas). Susan Barroso, Eversource (electric).

Summary: This is to install and replace one telemetry cabinet and install electrical cabinet. District regulator and install a second one purpose to improve ability to remotely monitor gas system. Telecom line to mechanical cabinet and electrical component from Albany through the street to electrical cabinet. Even though gas and electric cannot submit in one application, they should submit their petitions simultaneously and align them so that they are not asking for different things (as was evidenced in the hearing where gas was asking for different route versus what electric said they would ask). Utility pole is going to be removed as part of the construction.

Decision: Continue; not to be placed automatically on next month's agenda. It will be placed on agenda, once the corresponding electric and telecommunications petitions are filed.

7. New petition (225596) - Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090, for the following: Cambridge Street - Beginning 150 feet +/- east of Hovey Ave, extending 6 feet +/-, along/within the north sidewalk of Cambridge Street, at existing gas regulator station, replace (1) mechanical cabinet with buried gas lines, conduit and appurtenances. Install (1) electrical cabinet with 2 bollards, connected with (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC installed to the nearest electric manhole in the sidewalk and (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC to the nearest telecommunications manhole located within the intersection of Cambridge Street and Dana Street. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

Present: James Blais, Eversource (gas). Susan Barroso, Eversource (electric).


Summary: Same general discussions as before. Replacing cabinet with mechanical and electric, and telecommunications handhold; electrical in this instance that petition has been submitted – still

working on it. Telecommunications also not ready. Eversource petition in this location months back but not sure. The electric has a handhold that is already there and operating and should be able to use it.


Decision: Continue; not to be placed automatically on next month's agenda. It will be placed on agenda, once the corresponding electric and telecommunications petitions are filed.

8. Consideration of May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approved.

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Minutes Approved: July 20, 2023

MM___ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: July 20, 2023

TJS___ TJS/ 