

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, September 21, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

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.

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. **New petition (235643) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880**, for the following: Thorndike Street - Install new manhole over CNS existing conduit on Second Avenue, then trench approximately 154 feet from the new manhole to 40 Thorndike Street. Place (1) 4-inch conduit along the run in combination with Comcast trench (VP225219).

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Clean up a submission to join in the joint trench with Comcast. CNS had not been able to get notice to abutters in time so this was submitted after Comcast (whose petition was heard and approved last month). There is a lot of construction on the street and have to contact Comcast to see where they are in the project. The manhole against curb is more of a way to try to pick up conduit, a transition to pick up.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

2. **New petition (239180) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880**, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - From Verizon manhole 26/507 located on Green Street, trench approximately 255 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS conduit, and (1) 4-inch PVC City Shadow conduit to the University Park manhole located at the intersection of Brookline and Franklin

Street. From University Park manhole, trench approximately 240 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC5 CNS conduit and (1) 4-inch PVC City Shadow conduit to existing University Park manhole #3A on Franklin Street.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: They have been working on this for about 1.5 years. This is a customer request and using existing conduit where they can. Have had sporadic pieces from Verizon that they have been able to lease and others are not available. This is a section where there is no Verizon availability. Run down Green to Franklin and then transition down Franklin and into University Park and meet up with cable they have on private property there. Franklin was reconstructed last year but they have no other option, this is the best route even if they have to repave. They are going to have to do more test pits on Brookline and Green to confirm path is open to what shows; no test pits allowed on Franklin.

Decision: Continue to conduct test pits on Brookline and Green Streets to ensure the path proposed is open and available; no test pits on Franklin Street.

- 3. New petition (238802) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880**, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Trench approximately 110 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS conduit from existing Verizon manhole 26/103 on Massachusetts Avenue to point of entry through sub floor wall on Private Property at 501 Massachusetts Avenue.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Continuation of previous application (#239180). This is another section where there is no capacity from Verizon.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that there be mill and overlay of the bike lane and parking lane, permanent sidewalk restoration, coordination with any restaurant in the area with outdoor seating, and coordination with City arborist.

- 4. New petition (238808) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880**, for the following: Ames Street - Break out of Level 3 manhole formation on Galileo Galilei Way, then trench and install (2) 1.25-inch PVC CNS conduit approximately 45 feet to newly proposed 3' x 3' CNS manhole located on Ames Place (private way).

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This is for a new customer at 75 Ames Street and they seek to diversify the conduit that is currently existing there. There is some conduit on Ames Place. Asking to expose current conduit on Galileo and extend onto Ames Place. Change is to take structure off Galileo and move to the private way or main road.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. **New petition (240601) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Waverly Street - At Waverly [sic] Street, northwesterly from MHC1747, turning and running southwesterly onto Waverly[sic] Street to private property, install approximately 97 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is on Pacific and Waverley Streets and it is to improve electric service reliability in the area. Waverley shared use path, that is what is known. Depending on what City arborist says, the bike/walk path may have to be moved.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that there needs to be coordination with the City arborist; if City arborist says there has to be a shift in the lane/area, there will need to be full restoration to the area.

6. **Continuation from May 18, 2023 for test pits and to further coordinate with Eversource Gas and Electric to ensure the corridor proposed works for both utilities (220220) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Windsor Street - At the intersection of School Street, southerly from MHC1414 to MHC744, install approximately 295 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: There are revised plans on this petition that show they moved the conduit through the middle to avoid gas and all other utilities. Has been coordinated with DPW.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that DPW lay out the work prior to any work being done in the area.

7. **Continuation from July 20, 2023 to allow additional time to review and also have Eversource review the plans in consideration of the Jackson Place project and determine whether modifications need to be made to this petition (229351) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Rindge Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue
Rindge Avenue - Easterly at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkway, install approximately 1054 feet of conduit from MHC2828 to MHC2833 via MHC2829, MHC2830, MHC2831 and MHC2832.
Rindge Avenue - Easterly at Sherman Street, install approximately 1126 feet of conduit from MHC3323 to MHC3704 via MHC3324, MHC3325, MHC3405 and MHC3404.
Massachusetts Avenue - Southeasterly, thence turning and running northeasterly from MHC3577, approximately 100 feet southeast of Alberta Terrace, install approximately 190 feet of conduit to property line.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: After discussion with Jim Wilcox and various other City and Eversource representatives, new conduit will also be used to provide service on Jackson project. There was discussion on the clearance for future drainage work.

Decision: Continue to conduct test pits to confirm corridor.

8. **Continuation from July 15, 2022, to allow the Petitioner enough time to provide information as to where the damaged conduit is located and upload the MBTA's permit to perform test pits and the license (181012) - Verizon New England, 85 High St, 3rd Fl, Pawtucket, RI 02860**, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to trench roadway 762 feet from MH26/19 to MH26/20 to MH26/21 on Main Street to place and splice new conduit.

Present: George Kotoch.

Summary: Petition is for an existing duct bank with extensive damage 700 plus feet to replace damaged conduit all at once. Since this is over the Red Line tunnel they pulled an MBTA permit but it has not yet been provided to the City. They did test pits that showed extensive damage and so they decided to repair all at once rather than piecemeal. There are 4 conduits in the duct bank and they want to install 4 – some of the damage on the sidewalk too.

Decision: Continue to obtain MBTA permit and the results of the test pits.

9. **Continuation from May 18, 2023, to have the Petitioner conduct survey of conduits as there may already be conduits at the location that could be used. In the alternative, Petitioner must provide an explanation as to why they are seeking four 4-inch conduits (216722) - Verizon New England, 85 High St, 3rd Fl, Pawtucket, RI 02860**, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to trench roadway 79 feet from MH 26/21 onto the property of 314 Main Street to place and splice new conduit.

Present: George Kotoch.

Summary: Looking to install 79 feet of conduit to provide service to 314 Mian Street, this should combine all the work with the previous petition (#181012). Will reach out to Verizon to get information. They are also showing going through a street tree which is not allowed.

Decision: Continue to obtain the surveys and explanation why the 4-inch conduits are sought.

10. **Continuation from May 18, 2023, to allow the Petitioner to speak to customer to see if they want to proceed with the work. If the customer wants the work to proceed, the Petitioner must provide drawing from engineer, include conduits for the City, and correctly depict the existing risers (218628) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860**, for the following: Whittemore Ave - Verizon to place 5 feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/24, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue, and to place 5 feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/12, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue.


Present: George Kotoch.

Summary: Updated drawings provided, and customer confirmed they want to proceed. The conduits were already placed by the contractor without a grant of location. The plans also show a connection on Harvey Street as well, but there is nothing on the petition on that. There are 4 conduits, are you and there was no information as to whether all four are being used. They may not all need to be the pole, they could rise up 2 and have the other 2 on the handhold.

Decision: Continue to obtain responses as to whether all four conduits are being used, and whether they are all going to rise on the pole.

11. Consideration of Meeting Minutes August 24, 2023.

Decision: Approved.

NMF 

Minutes Approved: October 19, 2023

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Minutes Posted: October 23, 2023

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