

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



Elizabeth Y. Lint  
Executive Director of  
License Commission

### POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION'S MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

By Remote Participation via Zoom

Meeting started at approximately 10:00 a.m.

*This meeting was held by remote participation through Zoom, pursuant to Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, suspending certain provisions of M.G.L. ch. 30A.*

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

**License Commission Staff Present:** Elizabeth Y. Lint.

**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. 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 October 15, 2020, for further review. (95123) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 125 Munroe Street - From existing Comcast manhole on Third Street, trench 47' westerly to proposed Verizon trench. Join common trench 270' westerly, breaking out 4' southerly to install 1-new 3'x3'x3 Comcast manhole on Munroe Street. Re-join Verizon trench from new Comcast manhole westerly 262' to the property line of 125 Munroe Street. **[Time Stamp: 02:12]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** A new plan was uploaded in November. Comcast was supposed to do test pits, but the developer already had done them. They showed that no trenching could be done in the pathway and no more conduit could be placed. Public Works is fine with the new plan. A new plan must be uploaded showing the new path. Their conduit is in the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. A new manhole will be placed over that exiting conduit. There won't be any trenching, just coordination with Verizon and the developer to get them to the common trench.

This would eliminate the 47 ft. street cross. There would likely be a small vault over the conduit. There will be a 4" conduit for the city from both Comcast and Verizon. Petition #15 ties into this. Verizon is the lead on this project.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition of a 4-inch conduit for the City, need a path for both Comcast and Verizon, there is no common space in the intersection therefore need a 4 inch from both. Petitioner needs to upload a new plan.

2. New Petition (104717) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 78 Holworthy Street - Starting at Pole #370/11 on Holworthy Street, trench and install 70' of (1) 2" conduit northwesterly to the private property line of 78 Holworthy Street. The conduit has already been installed by Eversource when they place their conduit. The commission is aware of this. **[Time Stamp: 23:47]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** The 2" conduit has to be changed to galvanized and the 3" should be brought 3 feet away from the pole and capped as is was never approved.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that they cap the extra conduit and replace the 2 inch riser with a galvanized riser.

3. New Petition (104718) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 10 Arlington Street - Starting at Pole #8 on Arlington Street, trench and install (1) 2" conduit southwesterly to the private property line of 10 Arlington Street. **[Time Stamp: 28:13]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway for Comcast and Jackie Duffy for Eversource and Daniel Stodolsky.

**Summary:** This was considered with #23 on the agenda. The homeowner/developer installed all the conduits because they didn't understand the process. Comcast is following up to take ownership of the conduit. The conduits were either oversized or undersized, so they had to be replaced in the proper place with the proper size.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

4. New Petition (104719) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 27 Spinelli Place - Starting at Pole #805/6 on Spinelli Place, trench and install 2' of (1) 4" conduit westerly to the private property line of 25 Spinelli Place. **[Time Stamp: 34:24]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** There are no issues with this petition. The developer is redeveloping the building.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

5. New Petition (104728) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 105 First Street - Starting at Pole #3 on Charles Street, trench and install 4' of (1) 4" conduit westerly to the private property line of 107 First Street. The pole is behind the chain-link fence in the current construction area. **[Time Stamp: 35:35]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is going from aerial to underground. There will be a 2" conduit for the City.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and a 2 inch conduit for the City.

6. New Petition (104731) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 14 Hurley Street - Starting at Pole #6 on Hurley Street, trench and install 80' of (1) 4" conduit easterly to the private property line of 107 first Street. Site is under construction. **[Time Stamp: 37:22]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner and Jeff Hirsch, developer.

**Summary:** This is the second building under construction on First Street going from aerial to underground. The correct address is 22 Hurley St. The buildings are not attached. There may be a need for a 4" conduit for the city.

**Decision:** Continued for further coordination with developer and utilities.

7. New Petition (104734) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 238 Pearl Street - Starting at Pole #20 on Allston Street, trench and install 4' of (1) 2" conduit southerly to the private property line of 238 Pearl Street. Conduit has already been installed by the contractor. **[Time Stamp: 48:10]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner and Daniel Stodolsky.

**Summary:** This is going from aerial to underground and installed without approval. The work was done correctly.

**Decision:** Granted. Must file acceptance without reservation.

8. New Petition (104742) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 20 Child Street - Near the intersection of Jacobs Street and Child Street, intercept the existing Comcast conduit on Jacobs Street and install (1) 3'x3'x3' comcast manhole. From newly placed manhole, trench and install 50' of (1) 4" conduit southerly to proposed pad mounted power supply in the designated area for transformers and lighting controls. **[Time Stamp: 55:53]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** The path was changed at the request of the customer. The revised plan was uploaded. This is currently a private street but will be turned over to the city.

**Decision:** Granted as amended by the petitioner, with typical conditions, and administratively change the route on the application.

9. New Petition (105512) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 105 Broadway - Intercept existing comcast conduit on Broadway and trench and install 480'+/- of (2) 4" conduits and (2) 4'x4' Comcast manholes easterly and connect to existing Comcast conduit. The proposed work is part of the City of Cambridge Kendall Culvert Project. **[Time Stamp: 58:45]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is part of the city's forced relocation of existing conduit and manholes. They looked at the site with the contractor and this is the best plan they could come up with so as not to delay construction. There are 2 conduits there. One is the city's and it will be maintained. There is an aggressive schedule to get this done.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

10. New Petition (105678) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 1493 Cambridge Street - Starting at the existing Comcast MH on Cambridge Street at Fayette Street intersection, trench and install 340'+/- of (2) 4" conduits (next to existing conduit) easterly on Cambridge Street to Hampshire Street. continue 245'+/- southerly to the existing Comcast MH at 200 Hampshire Street. The proposed work will include the installation of (4) 4'x4' Comcast MH's to replace (4) existing Comcast MH's. **[Time Stamp: 1:01:38]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is also part of the forced relocation for the Inman Sq. project. The City has fiber in the location. The path into the fire station must be maintained. The city fiber will have to be moved into the new conduit. Site visit and coordination with Eric Breen is required.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

11. New Petition (105795) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 17 Ellsworth Avenue - Starting at pole #228/9 on Ellsworth Avenue, trench and install 46'+/- of (1) 2" conduit northwesterly to the private property handhole at 17 Ellsworth Avenue. Customer/builder will be responsible for the trenching and sidewalk work. **[Time Stamp: 1:05:05]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** The customer is going from aerial to underground.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

12. New Petition (102617) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: 314 Main Street - Starting at Verizon MH#26/21 on Main Street, trench and install (1) 4" conduit 8'+/- in an easterly direction to proposed 3'x3' Crown Castle handhole. from proposed handhole continue 19'+/- easterly then southerly to existing Eversource MH#774. **[Time Stamp: 1:07:33]**

**Present:** Bob Walls and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is to bring new service to 314 Main St. It is on MIT property. They are going between Verizon and Eversource manholes. They have a breakout letter from Eversource, and the Verizon letter is pending. The next petition is the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the dig. They will need a grant of location for the entire route. Dock Street was just paved so a site visit is needed.

**Decision:** Continued to next agenda to address all concerns.

13. New Petition (102624) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: 455 Main Street - Starting at Eversource MH#C765 on Main Street, trench and install (1) 4" conduit 12'+/- northerly on Galileo Galilei Way to proposed 3'x3' Crown Castle handhole. From proposed handhole, continue 81'+/- easterly then northerly to existing Level 3 MH#0515-2703. **[Time Stamp: 1:14:00]**

**Present:** Bob Walls and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is attached to the previous petition and should be continued.

**Decision:** Denied, matter to be incorporated into Petition # 102617.

14. New Petition (102519) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 100 Binney Street - Starting at Eversource MH#C3476 on Binney Street @ Second Street, trench and install 70'+/- of (1) 4" conduit westerly on the inside of the sidewalk to proposed 36"x36" CNS handhole. From proposed handhole continue 5'+/- and intercept existing private property conduits or continue 40'+/- southerly to the existing private property manhole at 100 Binney Street. **[Time Stamp: 1:17:04]**

**Present:** Jeff Harrington and Bill Conway on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** The customer is requesting the service for diversity purposes. They have a grant of location from Eversource. There are 2 options: one is to connect on private property. If this is used, option 2 would not be necessary. The goal is to limit trenching. They already have fiber there.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

15. Continuation from July 16, 2020, to have test pits performed. (77331) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Munroe Street - Verizon to place new conduit for service, mainly on Munroe Street, but crossing over Fifth Street and Third Street (4AOL8WW). **[Time Stamp: This was heard with Petition #1 on agenda.]**

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** Test pits were done by the developer and a new plan was uploaded. This incorporates all the test pit findings. They will be crossing Third and Fifth Streets.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that a 4 inch conduit be added for the City.

16. New Petition (105555) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Monsignor O'Brien Highway - Place 28' 1-4" PVC conduit on Water Street from MH26-197A to property line of Lot 1A - 186 Monsignor O'Brien Highway. **[Time Stamp: 1:21:40]**

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** They are breaking out of their manhole to supply the customer. There will be a conduit for the city. This is for the new Lechmere station. The addresses have to be corrected on the plan.

**Decision:** Granted, pending correction of addresses, typical conditions, a 4 inch conduit for the City, and the additional condition that there be additional meetings with Diane Stokes from DPW for further coordination.

17. New Petition (105887) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: 731 Main Street - Proposed 121' conduit placement in front of 750 Main Street towards MH26-13. Proposed 70' conduit placement on Osbourne Street from 730 Main Street to MH26-14. **[Time Stamp: 1:26:20]**

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** They are extending from their existing manhole to the customers property. The city requests a 4" conduit. They should look at going from the manhole into the building. The proposed route on Main Street goes directly over the city sewer lines.

**Decision:** Continued to have petitioner find an alternate route.

18. Continuation from November 19, 2020, for test pit data review. (99263) Harvard University, Infrastructure Technology Services, N-211H 784 Memorial Drive - 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Story Street - Construct approx. 251 ft 2-4" of PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank within Story Street. The duct bank will be constructed from an existing Harvard manhole in the sidewalk adjacent to 14 Story Street to a new manhole in Brattle Street.

Brattle Street - Construct approx. 33 ft 2-4" PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank within Brattle Street (westerly) to meet up with the proposed new Comcast duct bank currently being considered by the Commission.

Construct approx. 201 ft 3-4" PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank within Brattle Street (easterly) from new manhole at intersection of Brattle Street and Story Street to new manhole on Church Street near curb in front of 66 Church Street.

Church Street - Construct approx. 332 ft 2-4" PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank on the south side of Church Street from a new manhole, in front of 66 Church Street, to a new second manhole, in front of 50 Church Street, and ending at 26-28 Church Street where the conduits will enter the building. The new manhole in front of 50 Church Street will be connected to an existing Comcast manhole with a 1-4" PVC conduit. **[Time Stamp: 1:29:42]**

**Present:** Mark O'Brien and Terry Tolosco on behalf of Harvard University.

**Summary:** The test pit data has been received. DPW is satisfied with the information. There must be a great deal of coordination with local business and the Covid testing site on Church Street. They are using Harvard's mitigation consultant to touch base with all affected due to loss of parking. They will try to establish different work zones to avoid parking issues.

**Decision:** Granted with typical condition, a 4 inch conduit be added for the City and the test pit data be uploaded.

19. Continuation from September 17, 2020. Tolling agreement. (88232) Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, 118 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581, for the following: 5 Bigelow Street - Proposed installation of a small cell wireless antenna and associated equipment on an existing Eversource utility pole. **[Time Stamp: 1:33:20]**

**Present:** Mike Giaimo on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** The conduit run is 125' down Bigelow and 5' to the pole. The plan calls for 2 4" conduits, one of which is for the city. The new plans have been uploaded.

**Decision:** Granted as amended, with typical conditions, and the additional condition that Bigelow will need to be paved curb to curb. Administratively the route will be amended, and the record updated.

20. New Petition (101789) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 219 Vassar Street - Installing electric service conduit to manhole.

**Decision:** Matter withdrawn by petitioner after the posting of the agenda, but previous to the meeting.

21. Continuation from November 19, 2020, for further review. (99003) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 28 Holworthy Street - Southerly from Pole

370/4, thence turning easterly, near the intersection of Spruce Avenue, to install approximately 95 feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 1:40:30]**

**Present:** Jackie Duffy on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** Both poles on that side of the street are over congested so nothing can be added to them. They must cross the street to pole 4. This is close to the water main running down Holworthy.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that they must coordinate with Cambridge Water Department prior to commencing the work.

22. Continuation from November 19, 2020, for further review and coordination. (99005) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Spinelli Place - Northerly from MHC3036, thence turning westerly, approximately 368 feet north of Concord Avenue, to install approximately 41 feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 1:43:22]**

**Present:** Jackie Duffy on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** Test pits aren't necessary as there is sufficient depth.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

23. Continuation from November 19, 2020. Conduits must be removed. (99278) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Arlington Street - Southerly from Pole 23/8, approximately 270 feet west of Massachusetts Avenue, to install approximately 6 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Jackie Duffy on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** See # 3 on agenda.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

24. New Petition (102199) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 233 Massachusetts Avenue - Southeasterly from MHC562 at the intersection of Windsor Street, install approximately seventy-six (76) feet of conduit, thence turning southwesterly across from Windsor Street, install approximately fifty-seven (57) feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 1:42:45]**

**Present:** Jackie Duffy on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is a control cabinet for the city installation of new crosswalks. The work has already been done.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that they must file an acceptance without reservation.



25. New Petition (102256) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 782 Main Street - Southwesterly from MHC740 approximately sixty (60) feet southwest of Cherry Street, install approximately seventeen (17) feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 1:47:18]**

**Present:** Jackie Duffy on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** This is an upgrade from 1 line to two lines for the chocolate factory.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

26. New Petition (104346) DivcoWest, 200 State Street, Boston, MA 02109, for the following: Morgan Avenue - Excavation in Jacobs Street and Child Street for temporary primary electric conduits from the source manhole in Jacobs Street to temporary Customer Station (temp power for construction) to be located in Child Street Park. Excavation in Jacobs Street, Morgan Avenue, and Child Street for temporary secondary electric conduits from Customer Station to both Lot LM and Lot U to serve temporary power during building construction. **[Time Stamp: 1:48:25]**

**Present:** Nicole La Bossiere and Paula Thompson on behalf of the petitioner.

**Summary:** A temporary service station is necessary to give power to cranes. Conduits would be installed for the future lots L and M. They have approval from the Planning Board. It was determined with DPW that this route is the best for public safety.


**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and the additional conditions that: the temporary duct banks must be encased in concrete and need to be removed once the permanent service is in; when they go into common area if they need to disturb any irrigation system, that the system be put back into working conditions; and must meet with Jim Wilcox, Diane Stokes and DPW consultant before the work commences.

27. Minutes for November 9, 2020.

**Decision:** Approved.

---


---

NMF  \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** April 15, 2021

MM  \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Posted:** August 23, 2021<sup>1</sup>

TJS  \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> The minutes had been posted on May 5, 2021 but they were uploaded without the date stamp of approval or posting. Therefore, they were re-posted with the date stamps on this date.