

Nicole Murati Ferrer  
Chairperson

Mark Melo  
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea  
Superintendent of Streets

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  

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**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, April 15, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**

**By Remote Participation**

*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. **New Petition (114564) Cambridge Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02138**, for the following: **71 Rogers Street** - This is 20' of 2" conduit in the sidewalk from the corner of the property to the utility pole for a phone line to service an Emergency Call Box in the Park.

**Present:** Larry Winnett.

**Summary:** This is a City project – the emergency call box in Roger Street Park is being reconstructed and have to get across the sidewalk to the utility poll to where the phone line is located.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

2. **New Petition (114480) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **25 Eighth Street** - Starting at Pole #37 on **Thorndike Street**, trench and install (1) 2' conduit 5' +/- northerly in the public way to the property line of **25 Eighth Street**. The contractor will restore the sidewalk panel.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** A correction was made that this should be a petition for a 4 inch conduit. Petitioner will update the drawing. This is for Cambridge housing which is under renovation and found out the conduits feeding the property are not viable which is why they are asking for a 4 inch. Ran into the construction company and they are under the impression that Crown Castle was also going to occupy this conduit. Crown Castle will lease from them – they need a petition also before installed.

**Decision:** Granted for 4 inch conduit, with typical conditions and the additional condition that there needs to be an updated drawing, and notification to Crown Castle that they need a petition before going into the conduit.

3. **New Petition (114477) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **32 Highland Street** - Starting at Pole #20/9 on **Appleton Street**, trench and install (1) 2" conduit 5' +/- easterly in the public way to the property line at **32 Highland Street**. Homeowners contractor will install the conduit in the sidewalk and replace the sidewalk panel.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** Homeowner is renovating the home and wants to go from aerial to underground service.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

4. **New Petition (114475) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **36 Follen Street** - Install (1) new 3'x3' Comcast manhole over existing Comcast conduit in front of **36 Follen Street**. From new manhole, trench and install (1) 2" conduit 18' +/- westerly to the property line at **36 Follen Street**.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** Homeowner is renovating and is requesting to go from arial to underground, need to capture before it goes into the manhole. Electrical raised the issue that there are two conduits on the pole now and both belong to Comcast, and if so, they could pick up the spare conduit in the same location rather than putting a structure in the public way. Petitioner did not recall there being a spare conduit but if so would use it. Extent of excavation will be the same whether use the existing conduit (it is just a matter of limiting the number of things on poles). Trenches are outside paving – developer to encompass the overlay for the utilities – on the developer.

**Decision:** Provided there is no spare conduit, granted as requested with typical conditions. If there is a spare conduit, granted with the modification that must use the existing conduit, must submit new plan, and typical conditions.

5. **Continuation from February 25, 2021, for further coordination with DPW and Electrical to find alternate routes. (108520) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581**, for the following: **8 Museum Way** - Crown Castle is proposing to trench to bring fiber and power to an approved DCR node at **North Point Park**. Crown Castle will install fiber & power from its existing

manhole along **Museum Way** to the existing node. The project will consist of a dig to lay conduit for both fiber and power. The power feed will come from an existing manhole EMH #2481 and run 34' south to point A in the drawing, continuing 231' feet to the proposed 33" x 33" handhole. Fiber will run from a Crown Manhole run 76' feet to point A and continuing 231' feet to the proposed 33" x 33" handhole.

**Present:** Paul Costa and Peter Szczepanik.

**Summary:** This matter was continued from February 25, 2021, for further coordination with DPW and Electrical to find alternate routes. Petitioner has submitted new plans based on the Commission's feedback. Reached out to DCR to see if they could dig through park, they said no because would trigger Article 97. Asked if could use spare conduit but they had none. They did change the route of the fiber and conduit. There is no secondary power. Shorted the fiber dig to move to Crown Castle manhole on corner of Education and Museum Way. Dig remains on Museum Way. Petitioner was made aware that they will need to mill and pave curb to curb Museum Way.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that they must mill and pave curb to curb and restore the sidewalk.

6. **Continuation from March 18, 2021, for further coordination and consultation so drawing shows proper relocation. (110759) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780**, for the following: **150 Gore Street** - Verizon to relocate 4 poles on the southerly side of **Gore Street** and 1 pole on the northwesterly side of **Gore Street**.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau, petitioner. Heather Hoffman, resident.

**Summary:** This matter was continued from March to allow further coordination and consultation to ensure the petition shows the proper relocation of the poles. They are relocating 4 poles, the drawing now shows the correct direction which was coordinated with DPW consultant. There is a separate request to relocate from driveway and move across the street, they should coordinate with that project since it will involve the same overhead construction and that way the area is not impacted more than once. Heather Hoffman expressed a concern about double poles and their timely removal.

**Decision:** Granted with condition that all double poles must be removed once everything is transferred into the new poles.

7. **Continuation from March 18, 2021, to allow petitioner to look into existing conduit. (109651) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **1573 Cambridge Street**- Northeasterly from MHC100, at the intersection of **Dana Street**, install approximately thirty (30) feet of conduit (WO#4274252).

**Present:** Jacqueline ("Jackie") Duffy and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Matter had been continued to look into existing conduit. New plan uploaded 2440 to the handhold. The new plan would eliminate excavation across the street, and then tie into manhole. It is a preferred route, with minimized excavation.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, administratively have to update the petition to show new route and manhole.

8. **New Petition (111626) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **36 Follen Street** - Southwesterly from manhole MHC3593, approximately three hundred eighteen (318) feet east of **Waterhouse Street**, to install approximately eighty-nine (89) feet of conduit (WO#4347223).

**Present:** Jacqueline ("Jackie") Duffy and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** There was no discussion.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

9. **New Petition (111702) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **196 Pearl Street** - Northeasterly from pole 538/38, approximately one hundred ten (110) feet southwest of **Erie Street**, to install approximately ten (10) feet of conduit in **Pearl Street**. **Erie Street** - Northwesterly from pole 240/28, approximately one hundred fifteen (115) feet southeast of **Pearl Street**, to install approximately fourteen (14) feet of conduit in **Erie Street** (WO#4377386).

**Present:** Jacqueline ("Jackie") Duffy and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This relates to two new houses coming in, one on Erie Street the other on Pearl Street.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that there has to be sidewalk restoration on Pearl Street.

10. **New Petition (111887) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Brattle Street** - Northeasterly from manhole MHC702, towards **Kennedy Road**, to install approximately one hundred fifty-eight (158) feet of conduit in **Brattle Street** (WO#4287905).

**Present:** Jacqueline ("Jackie") Duffy and Susan Barroso, petitioners. Herb Wagner, resident.

**Summary:** Installing 158 conduit from 702 to service 16 Kennedy Road – new service. This work will probably take one week to complete. There is some conduit already on Kennedy Road but that is a secondary manhole and the petitioner is seeking to put in a primary line. DPW expressed concerns – continue adjacent to curb line duct line 3-4, and require test pits regarding water main. Herb Wagner, an abutter, expressed concerns about the impact of the dig which is right in front of their house.


**Decision:** Continued to look at alternate route.

**11. Approval of Meeting Minutes.**

**Decision:** January meeting minutes, approved.

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**Minutes Approved:** May 20, 2021

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

TJS\_\_\_\_TJS/

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<sup>1</sup> The minutes had been posted on June 17, 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.