

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 AGENDA

Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, signed into law on June 16, 2021.

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

License Commission Staff Present: Dana Clarke, 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. 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 (144163) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **730 Main Street** - From existing Comcast sidewalk vault on **State Street**, trench and install (2) 4" PVC conduits 40' +/- easterly, then 150' +/- northerly on **Osborn Street** to the property line of **730 Main Street**.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro, Bill Conway, Paul Hickey (Block Diamond Real Estate, owners of the building), and Jeff Savoie (Consigli Construction).

Summary: This is for the new building currently under construction for MIT. They want to enter from Osborn Street, and that is why they need to do this trench. They do not need a vault, they are going to enter below grade. Recommend a common vault to be 3x3. Verizon would own the manhole and Comcast did not want to be in the manhole/vault because it would be on the public way. Comcast does not want to be in a Verizon manhole. The customer requested two conduits even though Comcast only needs one for its service feed. Client assents to just one conduit.

Decision: Granted with amendment that it is approved for 1 conduit only and with typical conditions.

2. New Petition (144166) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **750 Main Street** - From existing Comcast sidewalk vault on **State Street**, trench and install (2) 4" PVC conduits 10' +/- easterly to the property line of **750 Main Street**.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro, and Bill Conway.

Summary: Basically the same as previous petition, but on the other side of the building. Only a 10-foot trench. Same deal, Comcast only needs a one inch conduit, the other was for a spare that is not needed but was asked for by the customer.

Decision: Granted with amendment that it is approved for 1 conduit only and with typical conditions.

3. New Petition (144170) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **237 Hampshire Street** - Place 1 new 3'x3'x3' manhole over existing Comcast conduit on **Hampshire Street**. From new manhole, trench and install (1) 4" PVC conduit 12' +/- northeasterly to the property line of **237 Hampshire Street**.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro, and Bill Conway.

Summary: This is within the Inman Square construction project. Working with City Engineer Breen because Comcast is relocating most of their conduit in the area. Comcast does not have service in this building and it is being requested by the customer so Comcast is asking to do it before the street construction. Tight coordination with Inman Square Project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that there is continued coordination with Inman Square Project.

4. Continuation from May 20, 2021, for submission of all license agreements and easements. (117600) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: **200 Cambridgepark Drive** - Installation of 12,440' +/- of fiber optic cable from **200 Cambridgepark Drive** to the existing Crown Castle handhole on **Lowell Street** at **Mt. Auburn Street**; 4,251' +/- of cable will be placed in existing Eversource conduit and 6,455' +/- of cable will be placed on existing utility poles. The proposed build will also include the installation of (8) 3'x3' Crown Castle handhole's and 1,734' +/- of (1) 4" conduit and cable placed in the public way. The proposed work is needed to provide diverse service to our customer at **200 Cambridgepark Drive**.

Present: Bob Walls, and Bill Conway.

Summary: Crown Castle is still waiting on licenses, and thus, asked for a continuance.

Decision: Matter removed from the agenda until Commission receives notification from Crown Castle that they are ready to proceed.

5. New Petition (143902) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581,
for the following: **750 Main Street** - Intercept existing Crown Castle conduit on **Windsor Street** and place proposed 2'x2' Crown Castle handhole #1. From proposed handhole, trench and install (2) 4" conduits (1 for city shadow) southerly on **Windsor Street** to proposed 2'x2' Crown Castle handhole #2 intercepting existing M.I.T. conduits to **750 Main Street Building**.

Present: Bob Walls, and Bill Conway.

Summary: This is to intercept their existing conduit to bring MIT new service. Also intended to intercept the conduit in a way so as to avoid crossing the steam line. They have been trying to use ground penetrating radar but have not received police detail so were not able to shut down the street. There is an issue as to whether the proposal will allow for the 4 feet off curb line for future drainage improvements. The size of the handhold 2x2 is questionable, and a 3x3 may be better. Test pits need to be performed as there is a lot of utility work in the area. Electrical will not need a shadow conduit.

Decision: Continue to allow test pits to be performed.

6. New Petition (137788) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581,
for the following:

69 Brattle Street/Northeast corner of Brattle and Appian Way

83 Winthrop Street

1341 Massachusetts Avenue

30 Brattle Street/Brattle Square Park

69 JFK Street

127 Mount Auburn Street

- Crown Castle will replace the existing street with a matching streetlight. Crown will equipment that will be consistent with the City's size and volume requirements for a small cell wireless facility. The shroud will be 36" x 18" x 12" in size, located 12 feet from the ground. The antenna will be 24" x 14.6". Crown will provide power from the Eversource manhole and fiber from a new Crown Castle handhold. Verizon will be providing fiber to the Crown Castle fiber handhold. Please see attached drawings and PPLANS.

Present: Paul Costa, and Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: Submitted six small cell applications located in the Harvard Square area. Will be used by Verizon for capacity. Verizon will be an agent for the fiber for the Crown Castle handhold. Looking at the Siting requirements and design criteria they came up with these locations. 69 Brattle – right outside library, remove cobra head with matching style and have equipment with shroud. Total structure height will be 32 ft 8 inches (this is the same height proposed for all). Fiber will be brought from Eversource manhole to Crown Castle and Verizon will bring it from Verizon to the Crown Castle power handle and site. Chose this area due to the limited impact, away from residential buildings

and across from the Yard setback. 83 Winthrop – across from Winthrop Square. Same equipment and there is a dig required to provide fiber and power to the site. Best site as it is away from residential buildings and also covered by trees. Approved by Cambridge Historical Commission. 1341 Mass Ave - existing cobra head street light being replaced, power being provided from digs also from existing manholes. This one was chosen because it is a cobra head and also away from residential buildings and park. Approved by Cambridge Historical Commission. 30 Brattle Street – Harvard Square barrel light. Located inside a plaza in Brattle Sq. Will be providing power from a dig. Dig will be done in a way to not touch any tree roots. This one was chosen due to limited amount of poles in the area (many there are decorative). Hidden nature inside the plaza from the residential and commercial buildings. 69 JFK St – south of Elliot St, replacing a 907 Tear Drop. Crown Castle power from a dig and Verizon fiber also from a dig. Approved by Cambridge Historical Commission. Chosen location on service road on the campus, off-set from residential windows, entrances, or parks. 127 Mt Auburn St – replacing cobra head with new equipment, power and fiber will also be done through a dig. Chosen because it is away from residential buildings, and outside of a parking lot. Approved by Cambridge Historical Commission.

Electrical expressed concerns as to the 9 feet down x 30 inches dig for the base of each installation. There is an issue as to whether they may hit other duct banks so a different foundation may be necessary. There was also a question as to why many handholds are needed. In theory, they can do just one on each and share it. However, there may be an issue with Verizon not wanting to bring power within the same route as the fiber. They do not want to comingle fiber and power on the same handhold. Some may be able to tap into the existing power, provided the power is sufficient. The petitioner was encouraged to find cleaner routes, use what is available and insert less structures in the sidewalk or street. The less excavation and structure, the better it is since it is so tight.

The location of Mt. Auburn may have to be denied because the area is only 5 feet wide. If the type of dig required could be modified, it may be allowed. Although the streetlight is currently non-conforming, it has been there 50+ years, and a new installation would have to be with the current requirements, hence they need to be ADA compliant (need 4 foot clearance).

Most of the petitions, if not all, require MWRA permits. The Brattle installation is going into a newly paved street so milling over the way will be required, there is a need for the gutter line 4 feet from the curb and relocating the power. Mt. Auburn – requires an 8M permit due to sewer line, it also needs test pits to confirm no duct banks being crossed, milling will be needed, as well as DPW site visits. JFK – requires MWRA permit, test pits to confirm crossing of the duct banks, and paver over way within 30 days after the work is completed. JFK/Eliot – requires 8M permit due to water main, and also milling overlay. Mt Auburn/Eliot – there are concerns as to existing trees, so on site meeting with City arborist is required. Mass/Peabody – will require restoration of sidewalks within 30 days and coordination with Harvard.

Decision: Tolling agreement entered.

- 7. New Petition (140548) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581,**
for the following:
238 Main Street/Corner of Main Street and Wadsworth Street
238 Main Street/Corner of Wadsworth Street and Amherst Street

- Crown Castle has two existing small cell facilities attached to one wood utility pole and one guide pole along Wadsworth Street. MIT has redesigned the street scape and installed 1907 Tear Drop streetlights. The foundations are existing at the site. Crown will install the new 1907 Tear Drop pole and equipment onto the pole. The equipment at each site will consist of 24" x 14" antenna and a 36" x 18" x 12" shroud attached to the pole at 15 feet.

Present: Paul Costa, Bryn Thornburgh, and Gary Amberik.

Summary: Have had existing sites there and now just looking to replace the wood poles. They need to install the new poles with the equipment. They already had poles there and now removing them. The base of the one on Main and Wadsworth has already been built and it is different from what is represented in the plans with the petition. It was confirmed that the installation at Main and Wadsworth is a 7-foot-deep base provided by Crown Castle which was their previous standard base for an antenna pole. Now they have a 30-inch diameter with 9-foot dig. They can work to see if they can alter the installation to use the base since they do not want to do any further excavation. However, that would require a new engineer's plan attesting that the base is sufficient to hold the installation.

Decision: Tolling agreement entered.

8. Continuation from August 19, 2021, to obtain license agreements. (136065) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **32 Vassar Street** - Place cable in Verizon conduit.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Applicant asked to have this removed while they get everything together.

Decision: Matter removed from the agenda until Commission receives notification from bridge Network Solutions that they are ready to proceed.

9. Continuation from August 19, 2021, to obtain license agreements and to submit a complete path/route. (135784) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Vassar Street** - Place aerial fiber optic cable from P85 to P690/73 on **Vassar Street**.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Applicant asked to have this removed while they get everything together. They acknowledged they have been informed by the Commission that the MIT police station is getting demolished; they have not yet been able to do the walk-out.

Decision: Matter removed from the agenda until Commission receives notification from bridge Network Solutions that they are ready to proceed.

10. New Petition (142569) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **1035 Cambridge Street** - Place a combination of underground and aerial fiber optic cable in new conduit and on existing utilities poles on **Cambridge and Windsor Street**, as shown on the attached plan.

Present: Jeff Harrington, and Michael Grill, landlord at 1035 Cambridge Street.

Summary: This petition was submitted as is to comply with the Commission's policies that they show the overall plan. They want to take the existing fiber optic cable and come out of the underground system to a utility system. This will provide a diverse feed to a retail building being built in Somerville but take advantage to also deal with Cambridge side. They need to do test pits on Cambridge Street to confirm separation between electrical and sewer line. Michael Grill raised concerns because part of the pathway (in the alley) is a fire egress and it appeared Cambridge Network Solutions did not have knowledge of who owned the handhold they were trying to reach. Harrington asserted that if they need permission to install a new one, put one in and a spare so that they can have access to one if needed in the future. 18 inches of cover is required, unless micro trenching. Cambridge Network Solutions would like to use what is there and available. If no easement, then they will work on it.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that test pits are performed prior to any work being conducted.

11. Continuation from January 28, 2021, to allow petitioner to provide an update plan to show a route that goes from the manhole direct to building. (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.

Present: Ross Bilodeau, and Paul Hickey, owner's representative.

Summary: This was continued to have a site meeting with the developer. This is still as proposed, the way the building is built and designed cannot run the conduit on the inside. Had meetings and recommendation to use existing Verizon corridor (either on top or side by side) and that way just use one duct bank. Petitioner seeks 4 conduits but conduits cannot be owned by individuals, they need to be owned by utilities. Verizon can use the 4 inch conduit to provide multiple fibers and give service to multiple clients. The 4 inch conduit it would fit a handful of conduits. Multiple fibers if needed.

Decision: Granted with the amendment that it is only for two 4-inch conduits, one of which will be for the City, and with typical conditions.

12. Continuation from August 19, 2021, to allow petitioner to reach out to Comcast to participate in the joint trench. (136917) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **22 Hurley Street** - Installation of new conduit from Pole 6 into a proposed handhole, and removal of Pole 4, 2, and 0.

Present: Ross Bilodeau, Jeff Hirsch, owner for the property-developer, and Anthony Vatalaro, Comcast.

Summary: Took another look at this and could not finish this with Comcast. Original petition had handhold but now will not have it. They need to run 2 conduits to be able to connect. A new duct back was uploaded to VP. Commission expressed concerns that these poles were slated to be removed 3 years ago. There is also the issue that Comcast has already trenched in the area and Verizon can lead space from them. There is no need for another duct bank since it is the same route and location. Verizon expressed it will not lease space they need their own ducts. However, the City Ordinance and the Commission's policy is that if there is available space and conduit is there, it has to be used. In addition, this will not fit on the sidewalk and the utility still owes the replanting of some trees in the area. The trees cannot be modified due to the duct bank. Finally, if just seeking to go into Hurley Street, they can go in from the manhole on Frist Street.

Decision: Denied. Petitioner encouraged to look at entering from First Street or in the alternative apply with Comcast to get a lease into the current duct bank.

[Note: Consultant Stephen Lenkauskas left the meeting.]

13. New Petition (142780) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **821 Main Street** - Verizon to place new conduit from Pole 143.1 on **Cherry Street** to Manhole 12 on **Main Street**.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: This is to get new service to 16 Cherry Street and need to create new syphon for the underground. Pole 1 has a trust system and 2 inch so it goes over the 45%. There are other poles in the area. Pole is too congested.

Decision: Denied.

14. New Petition (142817) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **60 Hamilton Street** - Verizon to place 10 feet of conduit from Pole 2 on **Hamilton Street** to **60 Hamilton Street**.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Building was rehabilitated and the conduit was damaged during demolition so trying to replace it.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

15. New Petition (142818) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **78 Porter Road** - Verizon to place 127' feet of conduit from Pole 11 to the side of **78 Porter Road** in a private alleyway.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Trying to get some new service. The pole is maxed out. There is a new Comcast manhole and can try to lease from them. Petitioner was advised that final pavement on Porter Street will be in the Fall.

Decision: Denied.

16. New Petition (143420) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **325 Binney Street** - Northwesterly from MHC 132, approximately 238 feet northwest of **Fulkerson Street**, to private property at **353 Binney Street**, install approximately 42 feet of conduit (WO#5692580).

Present: Jaqueline Duffy.

Summary: This is for new service for a laboratory office building.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

17. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021.

Decision: Approved (2-0, Commissioner Shea did not vote).

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: November 18, 2021

MM  _____

Minutes Posted: November 18, 2021

TJS _____