

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, October 21, 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 Commission:** 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 (148921) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **JFK Street** - Place 1 new 3'x3'x3' Comcast Manhole over existing Comcast conduit on **Winthrop Street**. From newly placed manhole, trench and install (1) 4" PVC conduit 10' +/- southerly to the property line of **57 JFK Street**. The conduit will service **57 JFK Street and 96 Winthrop Street**. [Time Stamp: 1:42]

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: Comcast requested a continuation due to the sensitivity of trenching on Winthrop Street and to find better path/route.

Decision: Continued to seek alternate path/route.

2. New Petition (148923) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **Church Street** - From existing comcast sidewalk vault at **23 Church Street**, trench and install (1) 4" PVC conduit 8' +/- southerly on **Church Street**, then 61' +/- easterly, then 15' +/- northerly to the property line of **1 Church Street**. [Time Stamp: 3:44]

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This is to provide service for the church, it would be new service. There would have to be coordination with the restaurant Source to ensure construction does not negatively impact them.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and coordination with Source restaurant.

3. New Petition (149421) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **Kirkland Street** – Place 1 new 3'x3'x3' manhole over existing Comcast conduit. From new manhole, trench southerly 12' to the property line of **56-58 Kirkland Street** installing 1-4" PVC conduit. This will include the removal and replacement of 1 brick sidewalk to the same or better condition. [Time Stamp: 6:10]

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This is for the homeowner at 58 Kirkland Street. There was an incident where the service ran through the neighbor's property – all the buildings are connected. The neighbor does not want the service running through their basement anymore, so the neighbor removed it. This would be the solution to feed service to the other buildings.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. Continuation from September 23, 2021 to perform test pits. (143902) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: **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**. [Time Stamp: 8:21]

Present: Bob Walls; and Paul Hickey.

Summary: Crown Castle performed test pits and did 3X3 to intercept the conduit. Plan now is to intercept the conduit down the street and drop a 3X3 before the building to intercept all the MIT conduits. Paul Hickey, project manager for Metimco, is in favor of this petition; the conduits will be used to connect to one of their tenants.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. New Petition (146063) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **First Street** -Install aerial cable along **Spring Street** beginning at utility pole #E2 to a point where it reaches utility pole #16 at the intersection of **Second Street and Spring Street**; a distance of approximately 355 feet. **[Time Stamp: 10:46]**

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This is for a new customer requesting service at 11 Hurley Street. They have petitioned in the past to place a spliced enclosure at the corner pole where they would like to tie-in to. They would also like to extend a small count self-supporting fiber cable from that existing splice point to the customer to provide service back to their hub point. They have requested applications from Verizon and Eversource and would like to continue until they receive the license agreements. DPW would like petition updated to show that it's not strictly aerial; there is some underground conduit work associated with this petition.

Decision: Continue until licenses are received. Also, there has to be update to the record as the proposed plan requires trenching.

6. New Petition (146558) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Binney Street** - Starting at Level 3 MH#0515-2900 on **Galileo Galilei Way**, place (1) fiber optic cable 220' northerly within the joint trench conduit to the private property manhole on **Fulkerson Street** belonging to **325 Binney Street**. No excavation involved.

Starting at Level 3 MH#0515-0003 on **Bent Street**, place (1) fiber optic cable 165' westerly on **Bent Street**, then southerly on **Fulkerson Street** within the joint trench conduit to the private property manhole on **Fulkerson Street** belonging to **325 Binney Street**. No excavation involved. The joint trench conduits were approved at the July 15, 2021 hearing under VP#129428. **[Time Stamp: 13:25]**

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This petition is more of clean-up (related to petition # 129428). CNS requested to be part of the joint trench with Level 3. This is to allow CNS to put a fiber optic cable in the joint trench that was installed.

Decision: Granted.

7. New Petition (149282) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **Hurley Street** - Verizon to place 3 (three) feet of conduit off of existing conduit at **22 Hurley Street**. **[Time Stamp: 16:45] [Time Stamp: 29:23]**

Present: James de Iturrondo; and Anthony Vatararo.

Summary: This petition is to intercept the existing Verizon conduit on the north side of Hurley Street and place a split wide duct approximately 3 feet to the property line to provide service to 89 -91 First Street. There is no underground work associated with First Street.

Anthony Vatalaro, on behalf of Comcast, raised concerns because Verizon is currently in their conduit without a grant. The way the plan is laid out they are planning to place a manhole over the Comcast conduit. The pre-marks show the manhole will go over the Comcast conduit. The drawings do not have footage from the street.

The applicant reassured that it is a split Y conduit and will just be intercepting the Verizon conduit and not touching the Comcast conduit.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

8. New Petition (145484) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Tremont Street** - Northwesterly from Pole 672/15, approximately 191 feet south of **Hampshire Street**, to private property at **41 Tremont Street**, install approximately 37 feet of conduit (WO# 4375178). [Time Stamp: 19:20]

Present: Jacqueline Duffy.

Summary: This is new service for 41 Tremont Street, includes installation of 37 feet of conduit. Concerns were raised that the pole is a riser and the system already takes up about 35% of the pole's capacity. In addition, there has been no joint common trench reach-out.

Decision: Continue to review pole capacity and common trench coordination.

9. New Petition (145487) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Florence Street** – Northeasterly from Pole 267/4, approximately 245 southeast of **Pleasant Street**, to private property at **19 Florence Street**, install approximately 39 feet of conduit (WO# 6381259). [Time Stamp: 25:22]

Present: Jacqueline Duffy.

Summary: This is for new service at 19 Florence Street. According to the conversation with the homeowner, they are going aerial. The issue "popping up" in Cambridge is the piecemeal applications and lack of communication between the utilities on the new constructions. There has to be coordination/reach out to the other utilities for joint common trenches.

Decision: Continue for common trench coordination.

10. New Petition (145664) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Elmwood Street** – Westerly thence northwesterly from Cambridge/Somerville Town Line, to private property at **95-99 Elmwood Street**, install 72 feet of conduit (WO# 2336617). [Time Stamp: 32:08]

Present: Jacqueline Duffy; and Michael Brandon (North Cambridge Neighborhood Association).

Summary: Eversource has already gotten approval from Somerville to go from Pole 113/10 to the town line to service 95 – 99 Elmwood Street. There were issues raised by the Commission as to the use of Pole 11, whether it was a primary, whether there is an old feed that can be used, and the low hanging wires.

Michael Brandon (North Cambridge Neighborhood Association) asked to continue this petition for better outreach to affected abutters. He states that this is controversial matter when the special permits were issued. There were a lot of issues raised because of the Somerville/Cambridge Bike Path and who would be providing the public utilities.

Mr. Brandon would like Eversource to attend the neighborhood forum (October 27) to discuss/resolve any problems/issues. Special permits were originally heard at least 2 years ago. They were issued, appealed in court, and resolved in the developer's favor. Building is under construction. Application missing affidavit of notification to abutters.

Decision: Continue to determine the issue as to Pole 11, and for application being incomplete as it is missing the abutter notification affidavit.

11. New Petition (146426) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Gore Street** – Southeasterly from Cambridge/Somerville City Line, to new traffic light control box, install approximately 94 feet of conduit (WO# 6044423). **[Time Stamp: 43:28]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy.

Summary: This is for a traffic light installation. The curb line has changed due to the Gore construction and it may now have to be on the road. There would have to be coordination with Kara Failese, DPW Engineer. Application missing affidavit of notification to abutters.

Decision: Continue to coordinate with Kara Failese, and for application being incomplete as it is missing the abutter notification affidavit.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Summary/Decision: There are no minutes ready to be voted on. **[Time Stamp: 45:25]**

NMF ___  ___

Minutes Approved: November 18, 2021

MM ___ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: November 18, 2021

TJS ___ TJS/ 