

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, November 18, 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. Continuation from October 21, 2021 for further review and to look for alternate route. (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: 2:43}

Decision: Petition withdrawn.

2. New Petition (151673) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **Mt. Auburn** - Place (1) new 3'x3'x3' manhole over existing comcast conduit on **Mt. Auburn Street**. From newly placed manhole, trench and install (1) 4" PVC conduit 18' +/- northerly to the property line of **587 Mt. Auburn Street**. {Time Stamp: 2:02}

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This work is for the gas station on the corner of Mt. Auburn and Aberdeen Street. They want to have high speed internet so that they can do state inspections. This will require an MWRA permit for Mt. Auburn Street. MBTA coordination for overhead wires and any work being done on Sunday will require a special noise variance.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional conditions that they need an MWRA permit for Mt. Auburn Street, an must coordinate with the MBTA.

3. New Petition (153069) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: **JFK Street** - Starting at existing Comcast manhole on **JFK Street**, trench and install (1) 4" PVC conduit 75'+/- northeasterly on **JFK Street** to proposed 24"x36" Comcast sidewalk vault in the brick sidewalk. From newly placed sidewalk vault, continue 10'+/- easterly to the building located at **32 JFK Street**. This will include the removal and replacement of the brick sidewalk to the same or better condition. **{Time Stamp: 4:37}**

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This building has never had service and they are looking to secure a fiber circuit from Comcast. Electrical requests the elimination of the handhole in the sidewalk. MWRA permit is required for this location.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, amendment of the elimination of the handhold, and the additional condition that an MWRA permit is required.

4. New Petition (151015) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: **Green Street** - Starting at utility Pole #311/33 on Green Street, trench and install (1) 4" PVC communication conduit 99' +/-southeasterly to proposed 2'x3' Crown Castle handhole. from the proposed handhole, continue 9' +/- southerly to the building at **362 Green Street**. **{Time Stamp: 7:02}**

Present: Bob Walls and Bill Conway; Anthony Vatalaro (Comcast); and Jay Leslie (Cambridge Housing Authority).

Summary: This work is to provide internet service to Cambridge Housing Authority; they are looking to upgrade their service. Electrical requests the elimination of the proposed handhole in the sidewalk and have conduit go straight into the building. Pole 33 is an existing double pole that will need to be removed.

Test pits will be required to confirm the corridor and coordination with Cambridge Water Department. Anthony Vatalaro, of Comcast represented they would like to be participate in the Common Trench for this dig. Crown Castle and Comcast agreed to share the conduit. Jay Leslie, of Cambridge Housing Authority, highlighted there in an immediate need for the upgrade due to COVID-19. They are overwhelmed with video conferencing and things that take up a lot of bandwidth, so they really need the upgrade. Comcast and Crown Castle will share the handhold. There will be (2) 4-inch conduits from the street to the handhold and (1) 4-inch conduit into the building.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the amendment that Comcast and Crown Castle will share two 4-inch conduits to handhold and then will enter the building together through one 4 inch, and the additional conditions that test pits are required and the double pole needs to be removed. Updated plans required and Comcast application required, which will be approved administratively when filed.

5. Continuation from September 23, 2021 for further review and revisions. (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. {Time Stamp: 17:56}

Present: Paul Costa.

Summary: They took the comments from the Commission at the previous hearing and adjusted some of the sites based on the recommendations made. They have agreed to use a shallower foundation depth, they have looked at all the Cobra head streetlights and have agreed to use the existing electrical conduit so there is no need to do a dig for the power there, and for the sites that needed MWRA permits they have submitted those. They received comments for the one site on JFK Street where they need to test pit over MWRA pipe. Coordination with DPW throughout the process is required. Tolling agreement will be signed for the work at 127 Mt. Auburn Street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions except as to 127 Mount Auburn Street site for which a tolling agreement will be signed.

6. Continuation from September 23, 2021 for further review and revisions. (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. {Time Stamp: 22:13}

Present: Paul Costa.

Summary: The issue was there is an existing foundation at Main Street. They have agreed to use that foundation instead of doing a 9 foot dig. The base at Main Street and Wadsworth Street will need an engineer stamped drawing that will accommodate the load. Crown Castle will sign a tolling agreement for Main Street and Wadsworth Street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions on Wadsworth Street and Amherst Street, and tolling agreement on Main Street and Wadsworth Street.

7. Continuation from October 21, 2021 to allow petitioner to obtain license agreements. (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: 26:42}**


Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: The applicant requested to remove this petition from the agenda and put back on when they are ready to present this matter before the Commission.

Decision: Remove from the agenda, not put back until hear from applicant.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes - September 23, 2021; and October 21, 2021. {Time Stamp: 34:08}

Decision: Approved.

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Minutes Approved: January 20, 2022

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Minutes Posted: April 28, 2022

TJS ___ TJS/ 