

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, April 28, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

By Remote Participation

*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. Meeting started at approximately 10:02 a.m.*

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

**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 (168188) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following:  
**Main Street** - Starting at the existing Comcast Vault on private property at **882/884 Main Street**, trench and install (1) 2" conduit 35' easterly then turning 2' southerly to the property line of **874 Main Street**. This will include the removal and replacement of 7 sidewalk panels.

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

**Summary:** 899 Main Street under renovation and there is a surplus drop that they no longer want/allow – towards the Church – chose shorter street.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that full driveway restoration between the properties is required.

**2. New Petition (170272) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following:  
**Webster Avenue** - On the western side of **Webster Avenue**, 106'+/- northerly of **Clark Street**, mount (1) new 36.8" x 24.3" x 16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #717/8 to enhance existing Comcast

equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network as it expands throughout Cambridge.

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

**Summary:** Due to network expanding and have service nodes at neighborhoods and minimizing the number of customers on each node to minimize impacts, that way if a node is damaged, only a minimal amount of customers hit. Comcast is self-powered which is why these matters are considered when submitting these petitions.

**Decision:** Granted.

**3. New Petition (170947) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Main Street** - At the intersection of **Main Street** and **Albany Street**, place (1) new 4'x4'x4' Comcast manhole over existing comcast conduit on **Albany Street**. From newly placed manhole, trench and install (2) 4" PVC conduits 139' westerly on **Albany Street** to the property line of **600 Main Street**.

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

**Summary:** For the new building at 600 and this path was chosen to minimize trenching on the street and the trenching is within the construction site. This is common trench type of work. There needs to be further review by the City.

**Decision:** Continued for further review by the City, and to allow petitioner to send common trench letter.

**4. New Petition (170838) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581**, for the following: **Dunster Street** - Crown Castle is proposing to install a new pole outside of **#80 JFK Street**. From this pole Crown will install 2' of conduit to a proposed 24"x36" handhole. From this proposed handhole Crown will install 14' of 3 conduits to a proposed intercept point. From this intercept point, 30' of fiber for power will go to existing EMH #C823. Another 2 conduits for fiber will go south on **JFK Street** for 228' to VZ MH #26/27. Crown also is proposing two test pits along the dig south on **JFK Street** to ensure the depth. This work is associated with Pole and Conduit application 137788. Conduit plan change is due to MWRA approvals.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburg.

**Summary:** Goes back to small cell application previously submitted, had to move it because of a Massachusetts Water Resources Authority line. Therefore, had to redesign to have more clearance from center lines and this is why it is being resubmitted. Will require curb to curb milling overlay and will require the work to be done overnight.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that: curb to curb milling overlay and will require the work to be done overnight hence a Special Noise Variance will need to be obtained.

**5. New Petition (170420) Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 5170, Boston, MA 02116,** for the following: **Mt. Auburn Street** - MBTA is proposing to install (2) 4" conduits within **Mt Auburn Street** to temporarily relocate 2 AC cables while the existing duct bank within the sidewalk is replaced with a (9) conduit duct bank.

**Present:** Brett Decker.

**Summary:** On behalf of MBTA to replace two locations and increase reliability. It is to connect power substation with another location – the current conduit is blocked/damaged. Will be removing the temporary conduit. Current proposal is to leave the current conduit. Remain in their corridor and not leave abandoned conduit on the street. Test pits, milling overlay of half of the roadway, coordination with arborist, coordination with Mt Auburn Hospital. Full concrete sidewalk restoration.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that: test pits must be conducted; milling overlay of half of the roadway is required; coordination with City arborist; coordination with Mt. Auburn Hospital to ensure no disruption to their access; and full concrete sidewalk restoration.

**6. Continuation from February 17, 2022, for further investigation and to get information regarding any licensing for easement with the City. (161285) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Fulkerson Street** - Easterly from pole P509/18, approximately 100 feet north of **Charles Street**, to private property at **#259 Charles Street**, install approximately 10 feet of conduit (WO#7553909).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Told could put a cabinet in Cambridge Park and it was relocated to a public way on Charles Street. No updated plan received yet.

**Decision:** Continued to review updated plan.

**7. Continuation from March 17, 2022, for further review. (164695) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Walden Street** - Westerly thence northerly from pole P697/28, approximately 70 feet east of **Whittier Street**, to private property at **#121 Walden Street**, install approximately 90 feet of conduit (WO#6512469).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Previously continued to see if can use the existing manhole and they figured out they cannot use it (no secondary conduit or enough clearance) so have to keep design as is. Cross gas main

perpendicular – overlay of roadway and full sidewalk restoration. As with the other similar petitions there will need to be a notification of common trench to the current attachees.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that: cross gas main perpendicularly; overlay of roadway and full sidewalk restoration; and at least the current attachees are notified through common trench letter.

**8. New Petition (167166) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Lakeview Avenue** - Easterly from pole P417/34, approximately 285 feet north of **Malcolm Road**, to private property at **#207 Lakeview Avenue**, install approximately 42 feet of conduit (WO#7233735).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Supply service to 207 Lakeview Avenue – want to increase service, common trench letter. Permanent sidewalk restoration, arborist, hold excavation permit overlay until there is an agreement from the property owner as to the restoration being required.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that: there is permanent sidewalk restoration; coordination with the City arborist; and confirmation and agreement from the property owner as to the overlay and understanding that no excavation permit will be issued until such agreement is received.

[Petitions listed on numbers 9-14 were all considered together.]

**9. New Petition (169270) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Maple Avenue** - Easterly from manhole MHC868, at the intersection of **Broadway and Maple Avenue**, install approximately 39 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31491.

**10. New Petition (169277) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Cambridge Street** - Northerly from manhole MHC114, at the intersection of **Harding Street**, install approximately 33 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31490 (WO#6726563).

**11. New Petition (169811) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Main Street** - Northerly from manhole MHC2909, south of **Broad Canal Way**, install approximately 19 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31493 (WO#6726597).

**12. New Petition (169834) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Beech Street** - Southeasterly from manhole MHC2800, at the intersection of **Massachusetts Avenue and Beech Street**, install approximately 21 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31488 (WO#6726515).

**13. New Petition (169838) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Cambridge Street** - Northerly thence westerly from manhole MHC834, approximately 85 feet

west of **Highland Avenue**, install approximately 34 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31487 (WO#6726480).

**14. New Petition (169844) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Garden Street** - Northerly from manhole MHC990, approximately 180 feet west of **Massachusetts Avenue**, install approximately 15 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31492 (WO#6726590).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper and Susan Barroso. Tom Leslie from Hospital.

**Summary:** Requesting to install a satellite manhole for improvements. Connecting existing manholes to satellite manholes. It is very unclear what the manholes are. There is an issue with regard to the antenna block as with plowing this may be a concern.

Tom Leslie is requesting that there is confirmation that the hospital will always have access to the ambulance bay on Camelia, the front entrance to hospital. There needs to be a site meeting prior to being able to approve. The situation is the same as to all petitions listed 9-14.

**Decision:** Petitions 169270, 169277, 169811, 169834, 169838, 169844 continued.

**15. New Petition (170059) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **First Street** - Southerly thence easterly from manhole MHC726, to private property at **#1 Thorndike Way**, install approximately 32 feet of conduit (WO#6398764).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Service upgrade single customer station, asking for new conduits to go there. There was confusion as to whether this was City property, which it is. There needs to be a revision to have this go behind the sidewalk.

**Decision:** Continued.

**16. New Petition (170113) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Binney Street** - Southwesterly from manhole MHC3116, at the intersection of **Galileo Galilei Way**, to private property at **#322-346 Binney Street**, install approximately 4 feet of conduit (WO#6401780).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Asked to be continued because came from wrong manhole – will resubmit with right information. May need to get something from the gas company.

**Decision:** Continued to get right survey documents to the Commission.

**17. New Petition (170866) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Athenaeum Street** - Westerly and northerly from manhole MHC28501, to private property, install approximately 127 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This is all private land.

**Decision:** Denied as moot, private property, the Commission has no standing.

**18. New Petition (170940) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Webster Avenue** - Westerly from pole P717/40, at the intersection of **Webster Avenue** and **Columbia Street**, to private property at **#1055 Cambridge Street**, install approximately 19 feet of conduit (WO#7167781).

**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Service upgrade for 1055 Cambridge Street. Will remove from Cambridge and do from Webster. New pole needs to be installed and there needs to be removal of any double poles. There will be a transformer 10 feet away from the sidewalk.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that a new pole needs to be installed and any double poles removed.

**19. New Petition (171049) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Vassar Street** - Northeasterly at the intersection of **Amesbury Street**, install approximately 551 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31510. Southwesterly from manhole MHC28577, approximately 419 feet northeast of **Amherst Alley**, install approximately 58 feet of conduit. Northerly from manhole MHC28577, approximately 419 feet northeast of **Amherst Alley**, install approximately 48 feet of conduit (WO#7259726).


**Present:** Hannah Cooper; and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Major job for MIT. Putting all these manhole and conduits to facilitate the work. Eversource will need to coordinate with itself since there is a large transmission project going right through there. They are also in the process of receiving license from the City for the sidewalk while the work is ongoing.


**Decision:** Continued.

**20. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Summary/Decision:** No discussion or vote taken as there were no drafts of minutes before the Commission for approval.

NMF \_\_\_  \_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** May 19, 2022

MM \_\_\_ MM/ 

**Minutes Posted:** May 19, 2022

TJS \_\_\_ TJS/ 