

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, October 20, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

*This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 signed into law on July 16, 2022.*

**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, unless otherwise indicated. 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 (197465)** Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: 51 Inman street - Installation of 37 linear feet of 3" conduit and 77 linear feet of 2" conduit in the Inman street sidewalk.

**Present:** Penny Antonoglou, senior engineer DPW; and Irina Sidorenko, sustainability analyst DPW.

**Summary:** DPW wants to install conduit on the Inman Street sidewalk near 344 Broadway, where the City Hall annex is located. The conduit will power 3 electric vehicle charging stations. Bollards will be installed around each charging stations. Once work is completed, all disturbed sidewalk areas will be replaced in kind.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions regarding electric vehicle charging stations:

- 1) Permanent sidewalk/public way restoration required within area where charging station is installed. Restoration must be ADA compliant.
- 2) Installation must be compliant with the National Electrical Code.
- 3) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit, Department of Public Works Permit, and Electrical Permit from Inspectional Services Department, comply with any provisions therein, and be subject to a wiring inspection.
- 4) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- 5) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- 6) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- 7) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

**2. New Petition (197875)** Comcast 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 1642 Mass Ave – Place (1) new 3'x3'x3' Comcast manhole over existing Comcast conduit at the intersection of Langdon Street and Massachusetts Avenue. From newly placed manhole, trench 111'+/- northerly on Mass Ave then 19' +/- westerly to the private property line of 1642 Mass Ave, installing (1) 4" PVC conduit. The work includes the removal and replacement of (2) sidewalk panels.

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

**Summary:** Petition was presented by Comcast to create a manhole over an existing Comcast conduit to get new service to four commercial units in the building at 1642 Massachusetts Avenue as that is the closest service they have to that building. There is a large water main break on that side of the road and they have not applied for an 8M permit.

**Decision:** Granted pending submission of 8M permit and also typical conditions and the additional conditions that there will be no overlay on one travel lane and there will be full sidewalk reconstruction.

**3. New petition (197883)** Comcast, 426 E. First street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 10 Farwell Place. On the western side of Farwell Place approximately 195' northeasterly of Brattle Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply unit to utility pole #6 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:** This is to increase service and bandwidth of the network and to minimize outages and increase service for existing and future customers. This is the same reason behind petitions listed as # 4-7 on the agenda. A new piece of equipment would be added to the power supply to reach more sections of the neighborhood. Comcast has new technology that allows one unit to be split in four and they require more power. At this particular location, the pole has some cracks and Comcast will need to verify with Eversource to guarantee the integrity and condition of the pole.

**Decision:** Granted pending confirmation from Eversource that the pole integrity is sound. If not, pole needs to be replaced prior to any new equipment installation. In addition, there is a condition that there can be no meter as this should be flat rate.

**4. New petition (197886)** Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 641 Green Street - On the northern side of Green Street approximately 330' east of Putnam Avenue, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply unit to utility pole #311/71 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:** Incorporated by reference and made a part of the testimony provided on the previous matter (#3 on agenda, petition #197883).

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that there can be no meter as this should be flat rate.

**5. New Petition (197888)** Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 99 Gore Street - On the northern side of Gore Street approximately 185' east of Fifth Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #23.5 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:** Incorporated by reference and made a part of the testimony provided on the previous matter (#3 on agenda, petition #197883). There has to be coordination with Gore Street project. Comcast confirmed that everything across the City is flat rate.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that there be coordination with Gore Street City project, and the additional condition that there can be no meter as this should be flat rate.

**6. New Petition (197892)** Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 126 Auburn Street - On the southern side of Auburn Street at the intersection with Salem Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply 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:** Incorporated by reference and made a part of the testimony provided on the previous matters #3 on agenda, petition #197883 and #5, petition #197888.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that there can be no meter as this should be flat rate.

**7. New Petition (197972)** Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 11 Carlisle Street - On the northern side of Carlisle Street approximately 94' west of Tremont Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #119/5 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:** Incorporated by reference and made a part of the testimony provided on the previous matters #3 on agenda, petition #197883 and #5, petition #197888.

**Decision:** Granted with the condition that there can be no meter as this should be flat rate.

**8. New Petition (198218)** Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 55 Wheeler Street - Starting at utility pole #741/12 on Wheeler Street, place (1) new 0.25" strand and (1) new 0.625" coax cable 149' +/- northeasterly to utility pole #741/12a. The work is needed because utility pole #741/14 will be removed after the construction of the complex is completed.

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

**Summary:** There is a new building going up and the pole in the middle of the project will be in the roadway, so this is the new path. There is a question on the path as it appears aerial cable could cross someone's property, but it is still unclear if it is Eversource property. Eversource has not come to the Commission for this matter. The Commission cannot grant a right of way on private property. The developer is planning on occupying the site within three months (527 residential units).

**Decision:** Continued.

**9. New Petition (196886)** Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 325 Vassar Street - Starting on Vassar Street, from the edge of curb at 325 Vassar Street the conduit will continue east passed Audrey Street to the existing Verizon manhole adjacent to 295 Vassar Street. This conduit will be approximately 375 feet in total.

**Decision:** Matter not heard; petitioner failed to notify abutters.

**10. New Petition (196887)** Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Starting on Broadway, from Verizon manhole adjacent to 299 Broadway, to the intersection of Clark Street, where the conduit will turn and continue north, leading to the proposed HS-20 traffic manhole at the intersection of Clark Street and Market Street. The conduit will then turn east on Market Street and continue to the utility pole #3 in front of 60 Hampshire Street. This conduit will be approximately 346 feet in total.

**Decision:** Matter not heard; petitioner failed to notify abutters.

**11. New Petition (196954)** Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Hampshire Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install (2) 4" of conduit from VZ MH#26/544 to VZ MH#27/79 one being Crown fiber and the other City Shadow. This dig will be a total of 101 feet, with 15' then a 3'x3' handhole and another 86' of conduit. From Verizon MH#26/79 Crown Castle is proposing to lease VZW conduit for 485' to VZ MH# 26/78. From VZ MH# 26/78 Crown Castle is proposing to install 111' of (2) 4" conduit with one being city shadow. There will be 44' of conduit, a proposed 3'x3' handhole, then another 67' of conduit to pole #4 along Clark Street. From Pole #4 along Clark Street, Crown Castle will cross aerially over Market Street to Pole 466/5, then cross again aerially to 60 Hampshire Street to Pole 466/3.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh, Shawn Alles, and Jeff Harrington.

**Summary:** There was confusion as it appears both Crown Castle and Cambridge Network Solutions are asking for a grant to service the same location but coming from two different paths. There was some clarification offered as to the different paths – one company only needs half of the path, the other the entire path. They are both looking to trench in the same location. However, the Commission found the diagram was unclear and it requires a site visit to ensure what is being sought, served and leased. There needs to be a conduit added for Comcast as well. Question was raised as to why a 3'x3' handhole needs to be installed between the two telephone companies as normally a demark manhole between structures (to allow for future splicing) would be added.

**Decision:** Continued to allow site visit and further coordination with Cambridge Network Solutions.

**12. New Petition (197634)** Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: 238 Main Street. The proposed modifications would include the installation of a (1) panel antenna with dimensions of 19.4"h x9.6"w x6.9"d, and the upgrade of the existing equipment cabinet to a 70.1"h x 22.7"w x 21.5"d cabinet.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh; and Attorney Becky Hussey.

**Summary:** This petition was previously submitted in May then withdrawn and now refilled. They are requesting a waiver on two requirements, one being no installation shall be located less than 6 feet from existing building, and the other being no cabinets shall be larger than 36' high, 18' wide and 12' deep. They request the waiver on the size to allow the upgrade of this installation so that in the future it can support more carriers. Attorney Hussey raised the issue that although it is aware that there are tolling agreements for other pending petitions, and that they would be willing to enter into one, they are concerned about the time it has taken the City to determine whether there will be a change to the Policy. The short clock has started and they will avail themselves of the right to install if the shot clock expires. It was placed on the record that the current tolling agreements are not expired. It was also placed on the record that the Commission would not grant waivers of aesthetics (per its previous vote) or of the requirement of installations within six feet of a building.

**Decision:** Denied as it does not comply with provisions of the Small Cell Policy.

**13. Continuation from July 15, 2022 (181012),** for test pits and updated engineer plan to show other utilities. Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to trench roadway 762 feet from MH26/19 to MH26/20 to MH26/21 on Main Street to place and splice new conduit.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau. John Morgante, MIT representative.

**Summary:** Pending as test pits with MBTA have not been scheduled yet. Morgante expressed concern as to the work since it appears to go through an MIT area which is very busy (Cancer Center and Department of Facilities).

**Decision:** This matter has been taken off the agenda and will be re-heard once Verizon notifies us that the test pits have been conducted or at least scheduled. The plan also has to be updated to show MBTA tunnel and there has to be more communication with MIT.

**14. New Petition (192166)** Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: 107 Gore Street - Verizon to relocate pole 304/48 25' south towards the corner of Lambert Street at Gore Street due to aerial trespass issues.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau.

**Summary:** The petition asked for a pole to be moved to correct aerial trespass as there is a City project underway. The pole has, however, been already moved but the petition does not have the correct location.

**Decision:** Granted pending updated plan showing the correct location.

**15. Continuation from August 18, 2022 (188411)** to ensure customer does not want any other utilities to go underground. Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Willow Street - Southerly from pole 734/21, approximately 359' north of Cambridge Street, to private property at #145 Willow Street, install approximately 76 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** The customer decided to go overhead due to costs of underground work and therefore this grant is no longer needed.

**Decision:** Denied as moot, petitioner withdrew.

**16. Continuation from September 15, 2022 (192377)** for alternate route, further coordination, and test pits. Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street - Easterly from manhole MHC133, at the intersection of Fulkerson Street and Binney Street, to manhole MHC3060, install approximately 901 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** The petitioners have provided test pits information and guaranteed there will be no damage to the tree when installing the conduit. Eversource confirmed root structures will not be impacted.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that during duct bank installation the entire concrete sidewalk will be removed and then paved with asphalt.

**17. New Petition (189523)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Elm Street - Westerly from pole 230/3, approximately 110 feet north of Harvard Street, to private property at #213 Harvard Street, install approximately 51' of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This conduit installation is necessary to give electrical service to a 9 unit residential building.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**18. New Petition (196190)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street - Southeasterly from manhole MHC1384, approximately 235 feet west of Fulkerson Street, to private property at #322 Binney Street, install approximately 14 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This conduit installation is necessary to relocate the duct bank to service 322 Binney Street (bio-med customer).

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**19. New Petition (196192)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Windsor Street - Southerly from manhole MHC112, at the intersection of Windsor Street and Cambridge Street, to private property at #478 Windsor Street, install approximately 73' of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Requesting to install conduit to provide electrical service to a new building.


**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**20. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** September 15, 2022.


**Decision:** No vote.

NMF  \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** November 17, 2022

MM  MM/\_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Posted:** November 17, 2022

TJS  TJS/\_\_\_\_\_