

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 17, 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. Commission will solicit public testimony regarding the aesthetics requirements of the Small Cell Policy.** The discussion may include incorporation of previous materials/details received from Small Cell Carriers, and questions from the Commission or other City Departments to the public, utilities or carriers on the current requirements and possible amendments to them. The discussion will not include a vote by the Commission regarding the current requirements or possible amendments. This portion of the meeting is for the Commission to receive information regarding the current aesthetic requirements.

**Present:** City Staff - Attorney Nancy Glowa, Attorney Elliott Veloso, Attorney Paul Kawai, Khalil Mogassabi, and Sarah Burks. Attorney Bryn Thornburg, Crown Castle.

**Documents Considered:** Prior correspondence provided by small cell carriers, Small Cell Policy, and list of questions.

**Summary:** Incorporated by reference and made a part of the record the previous testimony and information received and discussed on this same issue during the meeting of August 18, 2022. More testimony was presented as to the various changes in the system and the need to expand the size of the

cabinets in order to accommodate 5G and the new technology. Additional information was provided that if cabinet sizes remain as is, there will not be an opportunity for co-location. The deployment of 4G versus 5G is determined by the carrier.

**Decision:** Under advisement.

**2. New Petition (201272) Cambridge Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139** for the following: **Concord Avenue** - Work includes installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of **Concord Avenue and Fawcett Street**. This work includes the installation of traffic signal equipment (mast arms, traffic signal posts, controller cabinet, pull boxes, conduit, etc) at the location. There would be excavation across **Fawcett Street** to install conduits. New conduits will also be installed in the sidewalk area at the intersection. Existing conduit across **Concord Avenue** will be utilized to pull new cable to the new signal equipment.

**Present:** Kwame Aidoo.

**Summary:** This is for a new traffic signal due to the construction of the residential development in that area. It will all be new equipment. Excavation just across Fawcett Street, install conduit and join it to the existing conduit from the current signal.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and permanent trench and sidewalk repair, and conformance with the City of Cambridge's Surveillance Ordinance.

**3. Continuation from October 20, 2022, for the review. (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. Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

**Summary:** There may be a trespass issue; Comcast was under the impression Eversource was looking into the matter. Eversource representative was not aware of the trespass issue, but would now look into it and get back to the Commission/Comcast.

**Decision:** Continued.

**4. New Petition (200549) – Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Portland Street** - From existing Comcast sidewalk vault 45' west of Portland St., trench easterly 24' then southerly 7' to the private property line of **36 Hampshire Street.**, installing (1) 4" PVC conduit. All work will be completed by the property owner.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro.

**Summary:** New building currently the builder encompasses the sidewalk area and this will allow him to install while doing construction. Verizon coming in from Portland Street side and anyone else. Discussion on alternate route, but route sought was based on current construction so would not have to

route through the building. There will be discussion with the developer to enter right from the property rather than using the public way.

**Decision:** Continued.

**5. New Petition (200546) – Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127,** for the following: **Wheeler Street** - From utility pole #741/12 on Wheeler Street, trench northerly +/- 8' and install (1) new 24"x36" "Meet me" sidewalk vault. From newly placed sidewalk vault, trench northerly +/- 141' to the private property line of **55 Wheeler Street**, installing (4) 4" PVC conduits: (2) Comcast, (1) City shadow and (1) spare.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro.

**Summary:** Comcast has received two responses for common trench – both CNS and Cayo said no. No one else responded to common trench. This is for a new underground pathway to get into the building. This is related to the previous petition. There are concerns on the Wheeler Street side, the sewer line is MWRA line – large box and a drain line. The petitioner will need to reach out to MWRA which will probably not allow this installation.

**Decision:** Continued.

**6. New petition (196887) Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880,** 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.

**Present:** Jeff Harrington.

**Summary:** This was continued because even though they had done the common trench, abutters had not been notified. Conducted site visit and came up with plan to limit number of conduit placed and will share a conduit with Crown Castle. This new plan eliminates one manhole. They are also inserting a City shadow. Deleted old plans and uploaded new one.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of mill and overlay and curb to curb permanent sidewalk restoration.

**7. New petition (196886) Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880,** for the following: **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.

**Present:** Jeff Harrington.

**Summary:** They are working with different utilities and will have multiple changes to it. Will need to refile the petition.

**Decision:** Denied, with the understanding that it will be refiled in amended form.

**8. Continuation from October 20,2022, to allow site visit and further coordination with CNS. (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' hand hole 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 will cross aerially over Market Street to Pole 466/5, then cross again aerially to **60 Hampshire Street** to Pole 466/3.

**Present:** Attorney Bryn Thornburgh and Bob Walls.

**Summary:** CNS speaking about #6. After site walk with Public Works, uploaded new drawings. Crown Castle also updated their plans. This is a longer dig and eliminates a handhold. Crown Castle will take the lead as to the mill and overlay.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of mill and overlay and curb to curb permanent sidewalk restoration.

**9. New Petition (196189) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Sacramento Street** - Northerly from pole 613/6, approximately 282 feet east of **Massachusetts Avenue**, to private property, install approximately 12 feet of conduit (WO#9171348).

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Electric service and curb to curb restoration planed. This premises is being renovated and transformed into apartments. Eversource will be installing. An updated plan is needed showing the installation is being performed by Eversource not the customer.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of curb to curb permanent sidewalk restoration and updated plan showing it is an Eversource installation not customer installation.

**10. New Petition (196191) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Lee Street** - Easterly from pole 432/18, approximately 105 feet south of Broadway, to private property at **#52 Lee Street**, install approximately 46 feet of conduit (WO#10119949).

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.


**Summary:** This is for new electric service to alleviate the property in the back. Permanent trench and sidewalk restoration.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional condition of permanent trench and sidewalk restoration.


**11. Approval of August 18, September 15 and October 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**Decision:** Approved as to September 15 and October 20, 2022. No vote on the August 18 meetings as they have not yet been reviewed.

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**Minutes Approved:** January 19, 2023

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

**Minutes Posted:** January 19, 2023

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