

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, February 17, 2022 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: Mark Melo (present), and Terrence James Shea (present), Chair Nicole Murati Ferrer (absent).

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 2-0. 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 (160297) Black Diamond Real Estate Advisors Inc, 25 Maple Street, Hingham, MA 02043 (on behalf of the Cambridge Electrical Department), for the following: 3 new streetlights/poles and associated electrical conduit on **State Street** connecting to existing street light circuit on **Osborn Street**. [Time Stamp: 49:07]

Present: Paul Hickey

Summary: This is the redevelopment project of 730 and 750 Main Street. As part of that project, they removed several wooden poles on State Street and undergrounded the utilities that were on those poles (which included Electric and Comcast). As part of the reconstruction of that sidewalk they are installing 3 new light poles and are petitioning to install the underground conduit and connecting to the existing streetlight circuit on Osborn Street. Continued coordination with Electrical Department throughout the project.

Decision: Granted with Typical Conditions.

2. **New Petition (161420) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following:
Museum Street - At the southwest corner of **Museum Street and Carver Street**, mount (1) new 36.8" x 24.3" x 16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #499/12 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network as it expands in Cambridge. **[Time Stamp: 3:42]**

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This for a new power supply to mounted on pole 499/12. As the network grows throughout Cambridge, they have to keep adding amplifiers and nodes. This is to power the new equipment needed for that.

Decision: Granted. No excavation involved.

3. **Continuation from September 23, 2021. Tolling agreement for 127 Mt. Auburn Street. (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: 5:53]**

Present: Paul Costa and Bryn Thornburg

Summary: This petition was previously continued to further review the 4 feet of clearance for pedestrian circulation at 127 Mt. Auburn Street. Crown looked at alternatives and different locations and then went back to the original location to determine what distance they had from public right of way to the property line. The survey Crown submitted shows that there is 6 feet from the right of way to the property line. What is hindering that space is the hedge line is over. If the hedge line was trimmed back it would allow the 4.1 feet of space and ADA and pedestrian circulation. The hedges are on private property. The Commission recommends Crown coordinate with the City Arborist and property owner regarding trimming of the hedges.

Decision: Granted with Typical Conditions.

4. **Continuation from January 20, 2022 for a better survey and to check if there is existing conduit than can be used. (159161) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA**

01581, for the following: **8 Museum Way** - Crown Castle is proposing to set a new 33"x33" HH "A" on existing Power Conduit near EMH#2841 to HH B. For the dig Crown Castle will place 169' of (1)-2" SCH 40 PVC for power feed and (1)-3" SCH 40 PVC for City of Cambridge from existing EMH #2840 to proposed handhole "A". The contractor will ensure trench runs with the bike lane along the northwest side of **Museum Way**. **[Time Stamp: 11:12]**

Present: Paul Costa and Bryn Thornburg

Summary: Crown Castle was tasked to see if existing conduit could be used. Crown Castle submitted an email from Eversource indicating that they surveyed the 2 manholes and there is no conduit available that can be used; so they will have to do the dig. Since Crown Castle just paved this street recently, it will require a full restoration of half roadway (mill and overlay) and any sidewalks that may be affected.

Decision: Granted with Typical Conditions. With the condition of mill and overlay of half the roadway to the limits of work.

- 5. New Petition (162020) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581**, for the following: **Brattle Street** - Crown Castle Fiber LLC is proposing to install a small cell installation (HSQ-001) at an existing Cambridge light pole location. The existing light pole will be replaced, and an antenna and equipment cabinet will be installed on the pole. Crown Castle is also proposing to install 2' of PVC to a proposed new hand hole from the existing pole location. Then from that proposed hand hole, Crown Castle is proposing to install 24' of PVC to EMH #C520. **[Time Stamp: 13:44]**

Present: Paul Costa and Bryn Thornburg

Summary: Proposing to do installation on a double Acorn Pole right by 3 Brattle Street. Install a whip style antenna on the double Acorn Pole and Crown is requesting a waiver on the use of a nondecorative pole (which is stated as preference in the small cell siting policy); since in the general area the only poles they have are going to be decorative style – all double Acorn Poles This petition will need to be continued because there is a City project going on in this area and needs to be coordinated with the engineering division. Also, there is concern with the hand hole that will be directly over the abandoned MBTA Tunnel.

Decision: Continued for further coordination and review.

- 6. New Petition (161933) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Vassar Street** - The installation of underground cable and conduit beginning at the existing Utility Pole #85 and continuing to the point where it reaches the property of **620 Memorial Drive**; a distance of approximately 88 feet. **[Time Stamp: 16:36]**

Present: Jeff Harrington

Summary: CNS wanted to notify the board of their intent to attach to referenced pole. Still going through the make ready process with the utilities. They have received license from one utility and

still waiting on the license from the second utility. Once they obtain the final license, they would love to come back for final approval for both the aerial license, as well as the dig. The pole is congested so won't be able to rise up it. There are couple of conduits that go into the building already. CNS should look into using one of those conduits.

Decision: Continued and remove from agenda until CNS is ready to present to the Board.

- 7. New Petition (162121) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: **Florence Street** - Verizon to replace 218' of defective conduit, from MH264 on **Magazine Street**, to Pole 2 on **Florence Street**. . [Time Stamp: 20:22]**

Present: Ross Bilodeau

Summary: This is required for high-capacity circuit. They are trying to get from the manhole system to the aerial up Florence Street. They guys were out there the found a blockage and they tried to repair it and the section was just too big and they were asked to get a grant of location to do the work and replace the whole section. The design/plan is confusing and needs to be clarified and resubmitted. The manhole location on the design is not placed in the right spot.

Decision: Continued for clarification and further review.

- 8. Continuation from July 16, 2020, until further coordination can happen. (76130) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Binney Street** - Easterly from MHC3050, approximately 162 feet west of **Fifth Street**, install approximately 100 feet conduit. [Time Stamp: 23:51]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: This is for the Volpe Building. Coordination has taken place between the engineer and the general contractor. The conduit has been run to the private property in anticipation of this petition.

Decision: Granted with Typical Conditions.

- 9. Continuation from January 20, 2022 for further information and review; and to see if existing conduit can be used. (152327) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Cambridge Street** - Northerly from MHC531, at **First Street** to private property at **#124 Cambridge Street**, install approximately 53 feet of conduit (WO# 6279594). [Time Stamp: 26:21]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: Eversource has not found out if they can use the existing conduit yet. Request for Eversource to reach out to Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation because they don't fully

understand what this petition is for (they don't understand the location). Patrick Baxter is the contact person at TP&T.

Decision: Continue for clarification with Patrick Baxter of TP&T.

- 10. Continuation from January 20, 2022 for further coordination with Jim Wilcox. Also to see if existing 3-inch conduit can be used. (155841) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Brattle Street** – Easterly from manhole MHC720, at **Fayerweather Street**, to customer handhole at **#179 Brattle Street**, install approximately 108 feet of conduit (WO#5108761). **[Time Stamp: 29:10]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: Eversource has not found out if they can use the existing conduit. Electrical would like to get the existing traffic signal at Fayerweather Street squared away with the permanent feed.

Decision: Continued to see if existing conduit can be used.

- 11. Continuation from January 20, 2022 to have test pits performed; 8M permit is required. (155869) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **JFK Street** – Southwesterly from manhole MHC2804, approximately 173 feet southwest of **Massachusetts Avenue**, to private property at **#28 JFK Street**, install approximately 57 feet of conduit (WO#5518374). **[Time Stamp: 30:37]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper

Summary: Eversource has changed the direction of the conduit. They are putting in 4 feet of conduit instead of 57 feet of conduit. The revised design plan and the 8M permit have been uploaded to the record.

Decision: Granted with Typical Conditions.

- 12. Continuation from January 20, 2022 for common trench letter to be sent to allow other utilities to join in the trench. (156644) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Pine Street** – Westerly from Pole 548/2, approximately 95 feet north of **School Street**, install approximately 8 feet of conduit (WO#6848465). **[Time Stamp:34:13]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy and Liz Toner

Summary: Eversource states there's a little confusion with the requirement of the common trench letter. Eversource doesn't typically co-locate in the same trench. The Board explained that we are trying to avoid digging the same trench twice, multiple petitions, and recommended coordination with the customers to avoid any issues.

Decision: Continued for common trench letter.

- 13. Continuation from January 20, 2022 for the further coordination with the general contractor and to allow common trench letter to be sent. (157638) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Hamilton Street** – Approximately 245 feet northwest of **Brookline Street**, northwesterly from pole P320/10, to private property at **#143-147 Hamilton Street**, install approximately 55 feet of conduit (WO#6201910). **[Time Stamp: 37:39]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: Continue for common trench letter.

Decision: Continued for common trench letter.

- 14. Continuation from January 20, 2022 to allow test pits to be performed and for further coordination with DPW. (158939) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Prospect Street** – Southerly from the Cambridge/Somerville town line, to **Harvard Street**, install approximately 2465 feet of conduit and 7 new manholes: MHC31338, MHC31339, MHC31340, MHC31341, MHC31342, MHC31343, MHC31344.

Harvard Street – Easterly from **Prospect Street**, to **Portland Street**, install approximately 2774 feet of conduit and 8 new manholes: MHC31345, MHC31346, MHC31347, MHC31348, MHC31349, MHC31350, MHC31351, MHC31352.

Portland Street – Northerly from **Harvard Street**, to manhole MH2345 located south of Broadway, install approximately 333 feet of conduit (WO#4692306). **[Time Stamp: 38:28]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy and Liz Toner

Summary: Eversource wishes to continue this petition based on the public feedback from the last hearing. They are working on more robust material to kind of better explain the project. They are working simultaneously with DPW and other folks with the City to make sure they have the right outreach to the community and also that they are coordinating this extensive work in Cambridge.

Decision: Continued for coordination and further review.

- 15. New Petition (161266) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143,** for the following: **Hampshire Street** - Westerly from manhole MHC2499, on **Hampshire Street at Cambridge Street**, to private property at **#1407 Cambridge Street**, install approximately 11 feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 40:47]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: This work is for the City of Cambridge. Electrical states the work order for this drawing doesn't match up with the one that was revised back on December 23, 2022. The new one that is proposed is for (2) 4-inch conduits and the original one was for (1) 3-inch conduit. This petition has to be in coordination with the Eversource work order that was revised.

Decision: Continued pending revised design.

16. New Petition (161279) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Creighton Street** - Northeasterly from pole P183/12, approximately 620 feet southeast of **Massachusetts Avenue**, to private property at **#56 Creighton Street**, install approximately 6 feet of conduit (WO#7288102). **[Time Stamp: 42:32]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: The pole they are proposing to rise up is condemned. There is no room to rise up. There is a big chunk missing off the pole about 25 feet up from the ground. This pole needs to be replaced. Attachments can be placed on the new pole once the old pole is removed.

Decision: Continued for further review.

17. New Petition (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). **[Time Stamp: 44:15]**

Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: This work is for Eversource gas for a control cabinet. The design/plan is unclear. Further explanation has been requested.

Decision: Continued for further explanation/detail.

18. New Petition (161993) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Albany Street** - Southwesterly from manhole MHC24, approximately 560 feet southwest of **Main Street**, to private property at **#624 Main Street**, install approximately 91 feet of conduit. **[Time Stamp: 46:41]**


Present: Jacqueline Duffy

Summary: Eversource says the work is for Mass General. The Board believes it's for M.I.T. property, not Mass General. More clarification and explanation is needed.


Decision: Continued for more clarification.

19. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Decision: No minutes to approve.

MM MM/

Minutes Approved: March 17, 2022

TJS TJS/

Minutes Posted: April 28, 2022