

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

January 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

By Remote Meeting Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 signed into law on July 16, 2022. The meeting started at 9:03 a.m.

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

Staff Members Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant. Stephen Lenkauskas, retired City electrician, as advisor to the Commission with no voting rights.

Documents considered by the Board: As to all applications, the Board considered the application submitted to the Board and all documents attached thereto.

Decisions: Unless stated otherwise, all votes were 3-0 and by roll call vote. In addition, some petitions were granted with "typical conditions." Those conditions 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 (207070) - Cambridge Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway Cambridge MA 02138, for the following: Binney Street - Construct approximately 293 ft of (1) 4" PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank on Binney Street. It will begin from an existing handhole on the south sidewalk at the corner of Fulkerson Street and Binney Street. The conduit will crossover Binney Street to the north side of the street to a proposed handhole and continue west up Binney Street. It will continue west up Binney Street, to approximately the corner of Binney Street and the train tracks, connecting to three separate proposed handholes on the way. There will be a proposed 2" PVC conduit provided at every handhole to the new light pole adjacent to it.

Present: Terry Tolosko.

Summary: This relates to the new lab building at the corner. There were a couple of street lights and to accommodate the new parking garage had to shift them. Adding one light and relocating some of the other ones. There can be no new handholds placed withing the new bike lane.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that no new handholds be placed withing the new bike lane.

2. New Petition (207261) - Cambridge Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway Cambridge MA 02138, for the following: Main Street - Construct approximately 350 feet of (1) 4" PVC conduit concrete encased duct bank on Main Street, approximately 390 ft of (1) 4" conduit concrete encased duct bank, approximately 110 feet of a (1) 4" and (1) 1½" conduit concrete encased duct bank on Albany Street and finally a 125 ft (1) 4" conduit concrete encased duct bank on crossing Portland Street to Albany Street. The (1) 4" conduit will begin from an existing handhole on the west sidewalk on Portland (near the corner of Portland Street and Albany Street) and crossover Portland to a proposed handhole in the north sidewalk of Albany Street (on the corner of Portland and Albany). At this location there will also be a (1) 1½" conduit that will continue down Albany Street for 110 ft. where the (1) 1½" conduit will then head into a handhole while the (1) 4" continues down Albany Street. There will be a total of 6 new handholes on Albany Street. The next (1) 4" conduit will intercept the street light conduit in the south sidewalk at the corner of Main and Portland Street. It will continue down Main Street and connect to an existing conduit on the corner of Main Street and Albany Street. There are two existing light poles which will be relocated on Albany Street. The conduit is installed for the purpose of streetlights and an emergency call box.

Present: Terry Tolosko.

Summary: For the portion on Albany Street, the old street lights on wooden poles with overhead are being removed. There will be new poles installed and all the conduit is going underground. There will also be a new call box on Albany Street. In terms of the Main Street portion it is to accommodate the City's request for raised bike lane. Hence they are moving the street light further into the street. There was discussion on how Electrical found a shorter route for the handhold on Portland Street; rather than going down the street, it will be diagonally.

Decision: Granted pending submission with amended plan showing change of route on Poland Street as stated and with typical conditions. Any changes in the description that correspond to the changes made on the plan will be administratively made to the application/petition by the staff.

3. New Petition (201698) - Boston Properties, 800 Boylston Street Suite 1900 Boston MA 02199, for the following: Broadway - Install ±30 LF of (2) 4" telecom conduit to facilitate construction of the proposed new building at 135 Broadway and other developments for Boston Properties. The conduit is being installed to extend existing telecom previously installed but not connected to a private manhole.

Present: Jon Moser.

Summary: This is existing conduit duct bank system installed in 2019. They are now proposing to connect to a private manhole across the street rather than on the public manhole. There are current two 4 inch conduits capped and they are proposing to extend them. The conduits are at the middle of Broadway and they seek to extend them to the private manhole (they currently connect to the 145 building). Boston Properties have a DIG Safe number. No one replied to the common trench letter. Although there was discussion to add a City conduit, it was determined it would be futile since the conduit would only be from the stub to the private manhole and would not connect/extend to 145 Broadway.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. Continuation from November 17, 2022 (200546) for further review. 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: Bill Conway and Anthony Vatalaro.

Summary: This was continued because the proposed route was too close to an MWRA line. The property owner applied for 8M permit, which was uploaded. The current drawing continues to be deficient in that it does not show all utilities at the location or those at or near the train line. Also, the way the route is on the current drawing is unacceptable. It was discussed that upon a site visit, two new conduits on the pole could be observed. There is no grant for these conduit and it is unclear who installed them and for what. There needs to be communication from the contractor and clarification is required.

Decision: Continued for revised drawing and also to obtain information as to the two installed conduits on the pole – who installed them, why and what they are doing there.

5. Continuation from November 17, 2022 (198218) for further review. Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: 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: Bill Conway and Anthony Vatalaro. Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso, Eversource.

Summary: This was continued due to a possible trespass issue and there was an understanding Eversource was going to look into it. Eversource did not have additional information to provide and neither did Comcast. Eversource stated once again they would look into the issue and report back. It was discussed that Eversource already removed its own wires and moved them to the Eversource station. The pole abandoned by Eversource is the one proposed to being used. The pole is not the issue. The issue is that the aerial pass to the pole would be an aerial trespass over the parking lot of the shopping mall.

Decision: Continued – need clarification on trespass issue.

6. Continuation from November 17, 2022 (200549) for further review. Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Portland Street - From existing Comcast sidewalk vault 45' west of Portland Street, 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: Bill Conway and Anthony Vatalaro.

Summary: This was continued to see if the developer would agree to come in more directly into the private way. The developer has agreed to come in from the public way but have the conduit go straight into the property rather than going down the sidewalk and into the property. The revised

drawing has been uploaded. There is an MWRA issue because this is an 8M location and test pitting should be done to confirm the corridor. It is more likely than not that the builder already has an 8M permit since they have sidewalk occupation right.

Decision: Granted provided submission of 8M permit and with typical conditions and the additional condition that test pits must be done. Any changes in the description that correspond to the changes made on the plan will be administratively made to the application/petition by the staff.

7. New Petition (207169) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: William Street - Starting at Utility Pole #733/1 on William Street, trench southerly 28' +/- to the private property line of 2 - 4 William St, installing (2) 4" PVC conduits: (1) Comcast and (1) Eversource. This is part of a joint trench with Eversource. Eversource is the lead company and sent the Common Trench letter to Comcast. **(VP207135)**

Present: Bill Conway and Anthony Vatalaro. Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso, Eversource.

Summary: Comcast and Eversource are going in together. The 40 feet of conduit is necessary to provide service to new residential development. General contractor will be responsible for full restoration of street and sidewalk.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that the general contractor is responsible for full restoration of street and sidewalk.

8. New Petition (201068) - Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Hampshire Street - Verizon to place 32' of conduit from existing manhole 301 on Hampshire Street to 36 Hampshire Street.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: This is for two conduits from existing manhole to a new building proposed at Hampshire Street. This is the same issue as the Comcast location and thus there needs to be clarification that MWRA has reviewed this or that there is an 8M permit as they are crossing a large sewer line. In addition, Verizon's plans need to be done by an engineer. There are a lot of utilities at this location. There was a question as to whether one of the two conduits is for the City.

Decision: Granted pending submission of 8M permit and MWRA review of the plan, confirmation from Verizon that one of the conduits is for the City, and with typical conditions.

9. New Petition (203545) - Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to install 22' of new conduit from MH26/17 on Main Street to 600 Main Street.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: This is to provide service to a new property from an existing manhole. The plan does not show a City conduit, it needs to be added.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that a City conduit needs to be added. Verizon was advised that any future applications submitted without engineering plans will be denied. In addition, Verizon was informed that it needs to submit and upload documents in the manner advised to do so by the staff.

10. New Petition (205518) - Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Binney Street - Verizon to place 73' of new conduit from Binney Street to MH26/308.

Present: Ross Bilodeau. Jon Moser.

Summary: Conduit from existing manhole to refeed 250 Binney Street because it used to be connected from what is being demolished in the area. There was a question as to whether this was a new petition, and amended petition or a supplement to the already approved petitions. Specifically, in August the Commission heard and granted 189059 (Boston Properties) and 184788 (Verizon) for installations of conduit at this same location for what appears to be a more expansive project (or maybe just a portion of what is being requested). It was confirmed that although those petitions were approved, they have not been completed, the grant has not issued, and to the Commission's knowledge, the work has not even commenced.

Decision: Continued to obtain additional information as to how this relates to Petitions #184788 and 189059 and whether this is new work, amended work or supplement work.

11. New Petition (202773) - Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Binney Street - Verizon to place approximately 115 feet of new conduit on Binney Street to accommodate the construction of new building.

Present: Ross Bilodeau. Richard Moran.

Summary: This one has changed because they were originally only looking to install 4 conduits and now looking for 8. Four of the 8 conduits will be to feed an electrical vehicle substation at the new 290 building. City engineer reviewed this and had no issues. However, there were multiple questions as to the project overall and the plan submitted to the Commission only showed 4 of the 8 conduits. Richard Moran, Zeo Group, raised that they had contacted Verizon to do this as a joint built but never heard back from Verizon. Verizon had no information on the issue.

Decision: Continued to obtain more clarification on entire project, updated engineer plans, and confirmation as to Zeo Group's request to join.

12. New petition (207135) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: William Street - Southerly from pole 733/1, West of Pearl Street, to private property at #2-4 William Street, install approximately 40 feet of conduit.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Eversource and Comcast are going in together. The 40 feet of conduit is necessary to provide service to a new residential development. General contractor will be responsible for full restoration of street and sidewalk.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that the general contractor is responsible for full restoration of street and sidewalk.

13. New petition (207326) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Westerly from MHC643, approximately 115 feet east of Fulkerson Street, to private property at #629 Cambridge Street, install approximately 95 feet of conduit.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is necessary to provide electric service for four commercial spaces – new service. The corridor cannot be approved as proposed since the plan shows going directly over a large sewer line in the sidewalk. There was discussion as to feeding from an alternate manhole in the area, but the one identified as an alternate is secondary and cannot provide a primary feed.

Decision: Continued as a new corridor needs to be found.

14. New petition (207314) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Concord Ave - Westerly from MH2466 approximately 25 feet southeast of Fern Street to private property at #197-227 Vassal Lane, install approximately 30 feet of conduit. Easterly from MH2466 approximately 25 feet Southeast of Fern Street to MHC1661 at Alpine Street, install approximately 440 feet of conduit.

Decision: Withdrawn by applicant as it was previously approved under a different petition number.

15. New petition (207302) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Bow Street - Northeasterly from MHC2733 west of DeWolfe Street to new manhole MHC31776, install approximately 168 feet of conduit and install one new manhole MHC31776 in Bow Street north of Arrow Street.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Aside from what is being proposed, an amendment was made to add an additional 40 feet of conduit from an existing manhole on the private property line to Mass Ave. This would be an upgrade in service to provide more reliability. Eversource would need to restore road, curb to curb mill and overlay, and the bike line will need to be reconstructed. There was discussion that the new manhole be smaller.

Decision: Granted pending submission of updated plan showing amendments as to the additional 40 feet of conduit and smaller manhole, and with typical conditions and additional conditions to restore road, curb to curb mill and overlay, the bike line will need to be reconstructed. Any changes in the description that correspond to the changes made on the plan will be administratively made to the application/petition by the staff.

16. New petition (207293) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Harvard Street - Westerly from MH394 at Remington Street to private property at #382-392 Harvard Street, install approximately 35 feet of conduit.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is for upgrade service to the current residence.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

17. New petition (207281) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Kinnaird Street - Northerly from MHC2043, at the corner of Western Avenue, to existing pole P411/7, install approximately 55 feet of conduit.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is to improve electric service and reliability in the area. Not for a specific private development project. There are a lot of outages in the area so this is to improve service overall. They will install a switch on the pole and can switch between the two switches. The route goes through raised intersection and there are no alternate routes so will need to restore to original condition including pedestrian ramp.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that the raised intersection, including the pedestrian ramp, be restored to its original condition.

18. New petition (207163) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Hampshire Street - Southwesterly from MH2585, approximately 207 feet northwest of Union Street, to private property at #110-112 Hampshire Street, install approximately 22 feet of conduit.

Present: Phillis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Provide new electrical service to 112 Hampshire Street. Permanent sidewalk restoration will be required.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that permanent sidewalk restoration is required.


19. Consideration of Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022 and November 17, 2022.

Decision: Approved.


20. Discussion of Greater Cambridge Energy Project Email from Jim Wilcox from the City of Cambridge Department of Public Works requested the Commission accept Eversource's petitions as to the Greater Cambridge Energy Project per route not street.

Summary: What is being proposed by Wilcox is already what the Commission's petition application process requires; specifically, a petition and plan needs to show entire route, which sometimes includes multiple streets. Wilcox is not proposing anything different than what the Commission requires. Confirmation will be sent to Wilcox.

Decision: No vote.

NMF _____ 

Minutes Approved: February 16, 2023

MM _____ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: March 8, 2023

TJS _____ TJS/ 