

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, February 16, 2023, at 9:00 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. Small Cell Policy - The Commission will accept testimony on the published proposed changes to the Small Cell policy (see attached).

Present: Bryn Thornburg, attorney for Crown Castle. Eli Elbaum, Crown Castle.

Documents Considered: Current Small Cell Policy; all edits including the attached; and correspondence received from the public regarding proposed edits.

Summary: There was discussion to remove the antenna from the "measurement" of the overall cubic feet and revert to the previous measurements regarding the antenna. There will be further review as to whether the antenna measurements needed to be updated per the new 5G technology. There was discussion whether the overall cabinet and shroud cubic size should mirror FCC but it was determined that the proposed 24 was sufficient and that 28 was too large. The Commission designated its advisor, Lenkauskas, to provide further recommendations on antenna (non-whip) size and the maximum allowed as to the radius of the pole. There was confirmation provided by Crown Castle that should the antenna be removed from the overall size and the 24 cubic feet adopted, that all current applications would be

below that size and compliant. There was no testimony, other than from Crown Castle, provided to the Commission.

Decision: Under advisement.

2. New petition (208502) - Crown Castle NG East, 3200 Horizon Drive, Suite 150, King of Prussia PA 19406, for the following: Rindge Avenue - Crown Castle is proposing to splice cable in Verizon MH 26/596 on Cambridgepark Drive and run through Verizon conduit to Verizon MH 26/594 Rindge Ave. Crown Castle to break out of MH 26/594 and trench and install conduit to pole 587/67. Then Crown Castle is placing aerial cable from pole 587/67 to pole 587/65.

Present: Attorney Bryn Thornburgh, and Eli Elbaum.

Summary: Proposing leasing Verizon conduit for manhole 26 and running through another Verizon manhole, no work on Alewife Park Dr. New work breakout and install and do aerial fiber work. The only proposed excavation is on Rindge Ave. There needs to be consultation with Cambridge Conservation Commission because this is next to Rindge Ave Pond- this will need a permit from them. This will also require permanent sidewalk and trench excavation. The two poles are very congested. Need new conduits – but there is existing duct bank and need to see if there is volume. Need to investigate this further.

Decision: Continue to give petitioner sufficient time to determine whether they can use existing duct bank or conduit.

3. Continuation from November 17, 2023 as more clarification on trespass issue is needed (198218) - 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: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: This relates to a pole relocation and the issue of whether there is a trespass. Eversource was supposed to investigate but have not provided an update or have any information. At the meeting, the Commission originally voted to continue but then that vote was revoked to be able to deny the petition.

Decision: Petition denied.

4. Continuation from January 19, 2023 for revised drawing and also to obtain information as to the two installed conduits on the pole (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 and Bill Conway.

Summary: Had already installed the conduits and DPW had to confirm whether done properly. DPW met contractor and confirmed the conduit was installed and away from the utilities. This was supposed to be four 4-inch conduits, although only 2 were visible - probably left two underground.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. Continuation from January 19, 2023 to obtain more clarification on entire project, updated engineer plans, and confirmation as to Zayo group's request to join (202773) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, 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, Zeo Group (telecom provider).

Summary: Customer placed conduit. Verizon wants to get permission to continue project. Already installed and the intent was to document as built condition but the paperwork does not match what is at location. In addition, there is a previous grant for this location (#189059). If developer installed all conduits, there is a question as to whether a grant was provided and how many conduits. There was also a common trench associated with petition #189059 and there is a question of who will be owning each conduit. Each owner needs to get a grant of location. Moran testified that Zeo did contact the proper person at Verizon to be part of the dig but they never heard back; Verizon will reply back.

Decision: Continue for site visit, engineer drawings and common trench.

6. Continuation from January 19, 2023 to obtain additional information as to how this relates to Petitions #184788 and #189059 and whether this is new work or amended work (205518) - Verizon New England, Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Binney Street - Verizon to place 73' of new conduit from Binney Street to MH26/308.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Withdrawn by applicant at the hearing.

Decision: Denied as it has been withdrawn by petitioner.

7. Continuation from January 19, 2023 for a new corridor needed to be found (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: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Sewer pipes to be shown on the plan. There is an updated plan, but it has not been uploaded (the other two uploaded are not accurate, the accurate one is dated 1/31/23).

Decision: Granted pending submission of updated plan and with typical conditions.

8. New petition (207744) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street - Beginning 120' west of Fulkerson Street common curb, extending 100' +/-, along/within south side of Binney Street sidewalk, install (1) mechanical cabinet, gas regulator pit(s) with new control, monitor and slam shut vault(s), interconnected with buried supply and gas main line(s) within Binney Street, conduit and appurtenances. Install (1) electrical cabinet, connected with 1 ¼" RMC-PVC installed to nearest electric manhole. Cabinets to be protected with bollards (2 each). Install (1) 1-2" telecommunication duct bank tied-in to existing telecommunication manhole across Binney Street. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

Present: James Blais.

Summary: Gas regulator some of the work has started in coordination. Install 3 vaults within sidewalk in Binney. For remote detection of gas. What is the final width of the sidewalk at the cabinet to the bicycle track. It is not on the plan, but there will be bollards on the cabinet. Water main should be clear of duct bank, and cannot make duct bank shallower.

Decision: Continue for clarification of route and for petitioner to obtain/upload vendor communication letter.

9. New petition (209915) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Green Street - Southwesterly from existing conduit, northwest of MHC1582 to private property at #194 Green Street, install approximately 6 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to provide new service to a four-unit home at 188-194 Green Street.

Decision: Granted pending typical conditions and the additional condition that there must be permanent sidewalk restoration.

10. New petition (209950) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Rindge Avenue - Westerly from MH3321 to MH2030, install approximately 26 feet of conduit and Easterly from MH2030 to private property at #2-19 Jackson Place, install approximately 20 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is 46 feet of conduit for Cambridge Housing – two pieces of conduit – to provide new service. This will be temporary, but it will become permanent eventually – it is a huge project, and they are breaking it down into parts.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

11. New petition (209960) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Easterly from MHC607 at Second Street to private property at #125 Cambridge Street, install approximately 125 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Permanent electric service to 131 Cambridge Street – new service – for exterior lighting and irrigation equipment. This is the old Lechmere property.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition conduit needs to maintain a 4-foot clearance off the curb line.

12. New petition (209926) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Worcester Street - Westerly from pole 744/6, approximately 178 feet east of Norfolk Street, to private property at #116 Norfolk Street, install approximately 42 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Prior to discussing the specifics of the petition, the Commission discussed why a common trench letter would not be required if the project includes excavation. There was discussion that the petition includes something other than replacing equipment on the pole, which would be the only reason why a common trench would not be necessary.

As to the particular petition, this is for upgrade electric service due to renovation of 60-unit building. Worcester Street is part of the Port Reconstruction Project, and the conduit needs to be relocated to the street because the sidewalk will be a landscape area in the future. Before any construction, a meeting with Kleiner Felder, City's consultant, is required. Shared street does not have a sidewalk. Like Longfellow.

Decision: Continue to allow applicant to meet with City Consultant and send out common trench letter.

13. New petition (209953) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cedar Street - Westerly from pole 123/0, south of Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at #1 Cedar Street, install approximately 37 feet of conduit.


Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition was treated as the previous one, and a common trench is required. In addition, in this case, there is a double pole that needs to be removed before they can do what they are requiring.


Decision: Continue to allow applicant to send common trench letter.

14. Approval of January 19, 2023 and February 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Decision: Approved as to all.

NMF______

Minutes Approved: March 16, 2023

MM___MM/

Minutes Posted: March 20, 2023

TJS___TJS/