

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, May 18, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

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 (220970) - Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Broadway - Digging a 10 feet long trench to install conduit for a flashing beacon from an Eversource manhole to the beacon foundation.

Present: Dana Benjamin.

Summary: This is to install a flashing beacon in front of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. They do not have access to solar light so have to hard wire. Will need a handhold before it goes to the Eversource manhole, so will need to add that to the drawing. The drawings need to be done by an engineer so can review more thoroughly.

Decision: Continue to receive updated engineering drawing.

2. New petition (219153) - Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Charles Street - Per Special Permit 231A requirements, the existing traffic signal controller on the northwest corner of the intersection between First Street and Charles Street will be removed, replaced, and relocated approximately 50 feet from its current location. The location of the controller on First Street will be moved to Charles Street. The traffic signal pole will be replaced and relocated 5 feet south of its current location. A new traffic signal pedestal button will be added to the southwest side of the intersection of First Street and Charles Street.

Present: Jeff Hirsch, Urban Spaces.

Summary: Relocation of the traffic signal controller from First Street onto Charles Street and then the traffic signal pole being moved due to proximity to the building and does not sit properly on sidewalk. All part of a special permit, major amendment 3. Eversource notified and they have DIG Safe the property, and Pine Ridge Technologies is doing the pole attachment (already have a work order). The meter is on the exterior.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

3. New petition (216085) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Binney Street - Starting at Utility Pole #28 on Fulkerson St, trench westerly 45' +/- to the private property line of 325 Binney St, installing (1) 4" PVC conduit. All work will be completed by the developer including curb to curb restoration. This is a sole path for Comcast for the building per the developer.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: For new building on Binney Street. This was dedicated conduit for Comcast. They already did a common trench for the other providers to go into the building. Previously addressed with Petition 146558.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. New petition (216832) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Binney Street - Starting at utility pole #7 on Coolidge Hill Road, trench westerly 127 feet +/- installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduit to (1) proposed 3'x3'x3' Comcast manhole. From the newly place manhole, trench northerly 23 feet +/- installing (1) 3-inch PVC conduit to the private property line of 21-25 Coolidge Hill Road. Also, from the newly placed manhole, trench northerly 115 feet +/- installing (1) 3-inch PVC conduit to the private property line of 27-29 Coolidge Hill Road/416 Mt. Auburn Street. This is required to re-feed the homes with Comcast service that are currently fed from the pole located on the property of 412 mt. Auburn Street that is being removed.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway. Ross Bilodeau, Verizon. Karen Klein, resident.

Summary: This is part two of the petition that was approved last month. This one required common trench, which sent out and no one wanted to participate. This is for 412 Mt Auburn, the

homeowner wants 2 telephone poles removed from their property, there are 6 houses that used to be fed by those poles so this is to ensure they continue to receive service. The poles are owned by Verizon and they have confirmed they have no active service on the poles and no intent to join (email will be uploaded to the portal). Resident expressed concern as to the schedule because rely on the service. Comcast asserted they would contact residents for schedule and would also be present at the location when the interruption is caused. Comcast asserted the interruption should be no more than 5 minutes.

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

5. New petition (209080) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Vassar Street - On Vassar Street, from the base of utility pole #690/79 the proposed conduit will run east to the proposed Verizon manhole and the proposed CNS/Crown Castle joint owned manhole. The proposed conduit will run south across Vassar Street and then continue east, past Amesbury Street and Audrey Street. Once passed Audrey Street, the proposed conduit will run north across Vassar Street and terminate at the Verizon manhole #26/526D. The proposed conduit will be approximately 564 feet in total. A locus map of the area has been provided for reference.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Originally had a different route but the site and Crown Castle cell tower pole created issues. Now they are going to use existing conduit and construct one new manhole and will have 2 pipes, one will be a 3-way split and the other one reserved for another utility. Pole 73 will be removed and they will be going into Pole 75.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of test pits and permanent trench repair.

6. Continuation from April 27, 2023 to obtain updated engineer plans and for further review and site visit (213899) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Main Street - Placing 60 feet of 4-inch conduit from Level 3 MH#0515-2700 located on Albany Street to private telephone MH at rear of 700 Main Street.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This had been continued because the Petitioner had neglected to upload proper documents to the file. They have completed a walk out with DPW and have uploaded all notifications and stamped engineering plans and completed the sidewalk. Have uploaded the new route based on walk out and changes made due to it.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of permanent trench and sidewalk repair.

7. Continuation from March 16, 2023 to obtain updated plan (210219) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Ames Street - Trench and place (2) 4-inch PVC conduits (1 CNS & 1 City Shadow) from existing CNS conduit to 135 Broadway to proposed HH #1. Trench and place (2) 4-inch PVC conduits (1 CNS & 1 City Shadow) from proposed HH#1 to 77 Ames Street. Trench and place (1) 4-inch PVC conduit stub from HH #1. The work is being done between 135 Broadway and 77 Ames St.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This had been continued because the Petitioner had neglected to upload proper documents. Have completed the site walk and uploaded all proper documents. Have adjusted the map based on walk out. The new route will allow them to feed two different sites. The conduit is very close to the Eversource transmission project, which is not an issue in the sense that the petition can be approved but the petitioner should note that the conduit may need to be relocated in the future. Petitioner acknowledged the issue and stated they will put extra slack into the conduit in case they have to pull it back.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that tests pits have to be performed; note that the conduit may need to be relocated in the future due to the Eversource transmission project.

8. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for test pits and updated engineer plan to show other utilities (181012) - Verizon New England, 85 High St, 3rd Fl, Pawtucket, RI 02860, 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.

Summary: The petitioner asked the matter to be tabled because they need permit from MBTA to perform test pits and also need license. The Commission also noted that information as to where the damaged conduit was located has still not been provided and that needs to be known before the plan and route can be reviewed.

Decision: Matter taken off the agenda until such time as the Petitioner provides information as to where the damaged conduit is located and uploads the MBTA's permit to perform test pits and the license.

9. New petition (216722) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to trench roadway 79' from manhole MH 26/21 onto the property of 314 Main Street to place and splice new conduit.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Related to previous petition (#181012) but it is a diverse feed for 314 and 238 Main Street. This will require permanent sidewalk and road repair and there needs to be coordination with

City Arborist. The proposal is for four 4-inch conduits for Verizon. Do not understand the redundancy of the route; petitioner believes that this may be for fiber. There may be spare conduits at the location which would make this unnecessary.

Decision: Continue to have the petitioner conduct survey of conduits as there may already be conduits at the location that could be used, in the alternative, petitioner must provide an explanation as to why they are seeking four 4-inch conduits.

10. New petition (218628) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Whittemore Ave - Verizon to place 5 feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/24, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue, and to place five feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/12, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Petitioner asked for this one to be tabled as there have been some delays with the customer (may not want the work after all). Engineering drawings are needed if this will proceed. Also, Pole 24 already has a riser. Finally, if it proceeds, the City will need conduits at the two locations being proposed.

Decision: Continue to allow petitioner to speak to customer to see if they want to proceed with the work. If the customer wants the work to proceed, the Petitioner must provide drawing from engineer, include conduits for the City, and correctly depict the existing risers.

11. New petition (218593) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Cambridge Street - Verizon to trench 102 feet from existing pole 22 to proposed handhole to be placed by Crown Castle at 1746 Cambridge Street to place and splice new conduit. This is part of a joint trench with Crown Castle (VP188517).

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Crown Castle installation and trying to provide a pathway to get to the handhold. Related petition is 188517. However, the route was already approved in the Crown Castle petition (which has engineering plans, unlike this one). Unclear why there is another request for the same already approved pathway. If there is a determination that a transfer of the grant of location has to be provided to Verizon, then the proper mechanism will be discussed at that point. The Petitioner needs to contact Crown Castle and get an explanation as to who will be doing the trench and placing the conduit. Is this going to be lease matter, or a transfer of the grant.

Decision: Denied as moot as it has been approved in Crown Castle Petition 188517.

12. New petition (218592) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Hovey Ave - Verizon to trench roadway to place 52 feet of conduit from existing manhole MH 26/413 to proposed handhole to be placed by Crown Castle at 3 Hovey Ave to place and splice new conduit. This is part of a joint trench with Crown Castle (VP188515).

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Crown Castle installation and trying to provide a pathway to get to the handhold. Related petition is 188515. However, the route was already approved in the Crown Castle petition (which has engineering plans, unlike this one). Unclear why there is another request for the same already approved pathway. If there is a determination that a transfer of the grant of location has to be provided to Verizon, then the proper mechanism will be discussed at that point. The Petitioner needs to contact Crown Castle and get an explanation as to who will be doing the trench and placing the conduit. Is this going to be lease matter, or a transfer of the grant.

Decision: Denied as moot as it has been approved in Crown Castle Petition 188515.

13. New petition (218584) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Brattle Street - Verizon to trench roadway 28 feet from existing manhole MH 26/389 to proposed handhole to be placed by Crown Castle at 4 Brattle Street to place and splice new conduit. This is part of a joint trench with Crown Castle (VP162020).

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Crown Castle installation and trying to provide a pathway to get to the handhold. Related petition is 162020. However, the route was already approved in the Crown Castle petition (which has engineering plans, unlike this one). Unclear why there is another request for the same already approved pathway. If there is a determination that a transfer of the grant of location has to be provided to Verizon, then the proper mechanism will be discussed at that point. The Petitioner needs to contact Crown Castle and get an explanation as to who will be doing the trench and placing the conduit. Is this going to be lease matter, or a transfer of the grant.

Decision: Denied as moot as it has been approved in Crown Castle Petition 162020.

14. New petition (218582) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Hovey Ave - Verizon to place 2 new poles, P.4A and P.4B, also to remove existing pole P.6 from 44-78 Hovey Ave.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: This is a request to move a pole to accommodate the new fire station being built at the location. Prior to the hearing, the Petitioner had asked for matter to be removed from the agenda because they were making changes, but that was deemed premature and the matter was heard. The original plan was to relocate 2 poles but the City asked for changes. Now, per the City's request, Pole 4 is to be removed and a new pole, which will be known as Pole 3, will be added across the street.

Decision: Granted.

15. New petition (220202) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Fayerweather Street - Southerly from pole 255/19, thence turning and running westerly,

approximately 90 feet south of Reservoir Street to private property at 27 Fayerweather Street, install approximately 12 feet of conduit.

Present: Jaqueline Duffy.

Summary: This is to provide service upgrade to a residential 10,000 sq. ft. home with in-law apartment. The common trench letter was sent and unclear whether anyone responded.

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

16. New petition (220210) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Norfolk Street - Southwesterly from MHC2849, thence turning and running southeasterly, approximately 138 feet northeast of Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 58 feet of conduit.

Present: Jaqueline Duffy.

Summary: The conduit will be placed on Norfolk Street for service upgrade.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that permanent sidewalk and trench restoration are required.

17. New petition (220220) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Windsor Street - At the intersection of School Street, southerly from MHC1414 to MHC744, install approximately 295 feet of conduit.


Present: Jaqueline Duffy and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is for 290 feet of conduit for Windsor and School Street intersection but also tying into Main Street on opposite side. There is enough bank on Windsor and that is the one wanting to relocate. The Windsor duct bank is existing. Need to coordinate Eversource gas and electric. The MBTA has already provided a license to go through the Red Line tunnel. There was discussion that not all conduits already at the location are full and they may be able to relocate some of the spares.


Decision: Continue for test pits and to further coordinate with Eversource gas and electric to ensure the corridor proposed works for both utilities.

18. Consideration of April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approved.

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Minutes Approved: June 15, 2023

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Minutes Posted: June 15, 2023

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