

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, April 27, 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:*** Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant.

***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 (213498) - Cambridge Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: Blackstone Street - New street lighting, traffic signal systems and irrigation control as part of the River Street and Carl Barron Plaza reconstruction project.

**Present:** Jerry Friedman.

**Summary:** This relates to the reconstruction of River Street, Memorial Drive to Central Square. It will require a complete new City-owned lighting system, this is for roadway and pedestrian lighting. There will also be four new traffic signals, and Eversource will also be going to put new equipment too. There are two new irrigation systems/cabinets. They have been working closely with the Electrical Department.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**2. New petition (215691) - Cambridge Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: Sparks Street - At the intersection of Sparks Street and Mt. Auburn Street, install a new traffic control sign.

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**Present:** Jerry Friedman.

**Summary:** This is all new installation with trenching involved.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**3. New petition (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:** New communication that connects new facility for the service. There was discussion how the Commission requires engineer drawings, and they must show a reserve for the City, future corridor. The plans provided are insufficient to be able to properly determine whether this will work. There was discussion regarding approving pending plans due to customer's timeline but there are too many unknown factors to be able to approve as is.

**Decision:** Continue to obtain updated engineer plans and for further review and site visit.

**4. Continuation from March 16, 2023 for further clarification and review by the City to make sure the plan does not conflict with the City's planned work (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:** They adjusted the plan and route to not affect what is presently there. However, the updated plan was not provided to the Commission (it was not uploaded). The changes were based off the site visit with the City where feedback was provided, but no updated plan was provided, and thus, it is unclear what the altered route looks like.

**Decision:** Continue to obtain updated plan.

**5. New petition (214974) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: Raymond Street - Starting at utility pole #575/14 on Raymond Street, trench northeasterly 41 feet +/- to the private property line of 53 Raymond Street, installing (1) 2-inch PVC conduit. This is part of a joint trench with Eversource (VP211989). The property owner is responsible for the street and sidewalk repairs.

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

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**Summary:** [Matter heard together with Petition #211989, which is matter #12 on the agenda.] Homeowner is going from aerial to underground; this is a joint trench between Comcast and Eversource. It is a single family home.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that permanent trench repair is required.

**6. New petition (217253) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127,** for the following: Mt. Auburn Street - Intercept existing Comcast conduit in the grass area at 412 Mt. Auburn Street and place (1) 24"x36"x12" handhole. From newly placed handhole, trench westerly 74 feet +/- installing (1) 2-inch PVC conduit to the private property line of 414 Mt. Auburn Street. This work is required to re-feed 414 Mt. Auburn Street that is currently fed from the pole located on the property at 412 Mt. Auburn Street that is being removed.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** This is being done for the homeowners, there are two telephone poles on the property that are going to be removed. There will be trenching required.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that there must be permanent sidewalk restoration and coordination with the City's Arborist.

**7. New petition (217698) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127,** for the following: Concord Avenue - Place (1) new 3'x5'x5' manhole over existing Comcast conduit on Concord Ave 193 feet east of Fawcett Street. Additional space is needed to upgrade the Comcast network in the neighborhood due to increase usage.

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** This is to gain space for upgrade to the network. New manhole was the best solution.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**8. Continuation from February 16, 2023 to give petitioner sufficient time to verify if there is a conduit there. Also, Petitioner needs to reach out to the Conservation Commission and provide proof that the Conservation Commission does not object to the plan as proposed and that no additional permits are required from the Conservation Commission to proceed. Also if there has to be conduit placed, it must be done on the sidewalk (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:** Bryn Thornburgh.

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**Summary:** Petitioner asked to continue to May hearing because they are working with T-Mobile and they still need to plan with the Conservation Commission. T-Mobile was unable to get permission to go into the property. They will need to bring an updated design. They hope they can have this back on by the May meeting but it is unclear, they will need to consult with the construction person and see if that is a doable timeline.

**Decision:** Continue for the same reasons as articulated on noticed matter.

**9. Continuation from August 18, 2022 for tolling agreement signed by Crown Castle (188515) - Crown Castle NG East, 3200 Horizon Drive, Suite 150, King of Prussia PA 19406**, for the following: Cambridge Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install a (2) panel antenna array where each antenna is 19.4" h x 9.6" w x 6.9" d.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh.

**Summary:** Proposed upgrade to small cell site – proposing to make a change to the cylinder on top of the pole so it meets the Small Cell measurement requirements. The cylindrical antenna is 2.32 cu. ft., the 5G panel antenna is 1.5 cu. ft., and shroud is 19.75 cu. ft. Civil plans show the placement of a handhold as well as 5 feet of trenching and the addition of two 2-inch conduits. The conduits are for communication only.

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

**10. Continuation from August 18, 2022 for tolling agreement signed by Crown Castle (188517) - Crown Castle NG East, 3200 Horizon Drive, Suite 150, King of Prussia PA 19406**, for the following: Cambridge Street - The proposed installation is a (3) panel antenna array where each of the antennas are 19.4" h x 9.6" w x 6.9" d.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh.

**Summary:** Upgrade to a panel antenna with 3 antennas to bring 5G to the area. The cylindrical antenna has been changed so it is under the 3 cu. ft. requirements of the Small Cell Policy. The cylindrical antenna is 2.32 cu. ft., the three panel 5G antenna is 1.5 cu. ft. and the shroud is 19.75 cu. ft. There is also an installation of a 24 by 36 handhold, there is 6 feet of trenching and the addition of two 2-inch conduits. The conduits are for communication only.

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

**11. New petition (217819) - Crown Castle Fiber, 1800 W Park Dr. Suite 200, Westborough, MA 01581**, for the following: Mt. Auburn Street - Crown Castle is proposing to splice cable at existing slack in VZ MH #26/591, run through VZ conduit to VZ MH #26/527, both on Mt. Auburn Street, and conventionally trench and install approximately 174' of 4" conduit along the public right of way on Mt. Auburn Street starting at 625 Mt. Auburn Street, and ending at telecommunications handhole #26/242 at the Aberdeen Ave and Mt. Auburn Street intersection. Crown Castle will also be placing aerial cable

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from pole #271/2 at Mt. Auburn/Aberdeen Ave to 625 Mt. Auburn Street, both in the private right-of-way.

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh.

**Summary:** There was a redesign so that it is all underground which will be mostly taking place on private property. There was a walkthrough of the area and there is existing conduit on the street but no availability, so the dig is now from the manhole to bring into the private property. An 8M permit will be required because there is MWRA water and sewer lines there. This is also right outside the bike lane so restoration will be required and markings will need to be redone. They will need to coordinate with MBTA since this is a heavy bus route.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that must: obtain 8M permit; mill and pave curb to curb with permanent sidewalk restoration and all pavement markings restored; and coordinate with MBTA.

**12. New petition (211989) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Raymond Street - Northeasterly, from pole 575/14, approximately 80 feet north of Gray Garden East, to private property, install approximately 37 feet of conduit.

**Summary/Decision:** See matter #5.

**13. New petition (212834) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: New Street - Northerly from MHC3382 at Bay State Road, to private property at #52 New Street, install approximately 380 feet of conduit and install (2) new manholes.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Two new manholes; the work is necessary to provide electric service to a new 215 unit building (new service). There is a known issue with this location and there being no space/corridor available. It was the same issue as in a previous petition. There is permanent power on New Street and no corridor available on New Street, and that is how they did 77, so they expect that this would be the same to 52 (test pits, no corridor).

**Decision:** Denied as there is no corridor available on New Street.

**14. New petition (212270) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Magazine Street - Northeasterly from MHC1308, Southeast of Chalk Street, to private property at #24-26 Corp McTernan, install approximately 51 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Existing upgrade service to 12 units, requested by the client.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that they must obtain an 8M permit and do permanent sidewalk restoration.

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**15. New petition (212499) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Harvard Street - Westerly from MHC3418, approximately 100 feet southeast of Columbia Street, to private property at 194 Harvard Street, install approximately 20 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This is for new electric service for commercial and residential space.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**16. New petition (212706) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Green Street - Southeasterly from MH1585, approximately 315 feet northwest of Pearl Street to private property, install approximately 20 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Provide electric service 600 underground feed to an existing service.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that must do permanent sidewalk restoration.

**17. New petition (216378) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Thorndike Street - Westerly, thence turning and running northerly from pole 668/30 at Sixth Street, to private property at #49 Sixth Street, install approximately 86 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Thorndike Street, upgrade to service (46 unit residential building); it was requested by the customer. There is a double pole at this location and no new attachments will be allowed until the old pole is removed.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: there can be no attachments to new pole until old pole is removed; must mill and overlay curb to curb; and do permanent sidewalk restoration.

**18. New petition (216413) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Larch Road - Southwesterly from pole 476/3, approximately 104 feet north of Brattle Street to private property, install approximately 45 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** Electrical 237 Brattle upgrade and relocate existing service. They did send out common trench but no one decided to participate.

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**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: must mill and overlay curb to curb; and do permanent sidewalk restoration.

**19. New petition (216536) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Sparks Street - Easterly from pole 643/22, approximately 136 feet south of Craigie Street to private property, install approximately 36 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This will be a relocate and upgrade job (doing it in Sparks Street). Developer owns part of the route.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that must do permanent trench repair.

**20. New petition (216545) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Magee Street - Easterly from pole 459/13, approximately 90 feet north of Callender Street to private property, install approximately 42 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This is to provide upgraded service to 5 Callender. DPW paved this area two years ago, so full restoration will be required.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: must mill and overlay curb to curb; and coordinate with the City's Arborist.

**21. New petition (216694) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Pleasant Street - Southeasterly from MH3370 to private property at #46 Pleasant Street, install approximately 43 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

**Summary:** This is so that they can install an elevator in the Women's Center and provide new service. There is a nearby City project with which they will need to coordinate.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: must do permanent trench repair; and coordinate with the City's River Street Project Contractor.

**22. New petition (217644) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Binney Street - Replace (2) existing manholes (MHC1384 & MHC1383) southwesterly from MHC1384, thence turning and running northwesterly, thence turning and running northeasterly to MHC1383, approximately 238 feet northwest of Fulkerson Street, install approximately 176 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway and Susan Barroso.

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**Summary:** This work is at Binney Street and Binney Park for the new future station. There will need to be coordination with City Park contractor. The location falls within 325 Binney Street.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: must do temporary sidewalk restoration; and coordinate with the City's Park Contractor.

### 23. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes** March 16, 2023.

**Decision:** Approved.

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NMF\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** May 18, 2023

MM\_\_\_MM/

**Minutes Posted:** May 18, 2023

TJS\_\_\_TJS/