

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, August 24, 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. Continuation from July 20, 2023 until an Eversource work order is provided (231272) - Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, 344 Broadway Cambridge MA 02139**, for the following: Binney Street - Install a pair of Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs) at the proposed Grand Junction Path Crossing on Binney Street. Beginning at an electrical manhole on the south side of Binney Street approximately 58 feet east of Grand Junction Railroad Crossing, approximately 70 feet of 3-inch schedule 80, type NM traffic signal conduit will be installed beneath the southerly sidewalk and across Binney Street to provide electrical service to the RRFB system. Sections of traffic signal conduit within the roadway shall be encased in concrete. At the intersection of Binney Street, Fulkerson Street and Galileo Galilei Way, minor traffic signal modifications are required to accommodate the shift of Binney Street to the north to provide sidewalk level bike lanes. At the northwest corner of the intersection, approximately 32 feet of 3-inch schedule 80, type NM traffic signal conduit are required to relocate a post mounted traffic/pedestrian signal to accommodate a corner rounding to facilitate turning movements and install (2) new 8-foot traffic signal posts. At the northeast corner of the intersection, approximately 5 feet of 3-inch schedule 80, type NM traffic signal conduit will be installed from an existing traffic signal pull box to a new 10-foot traffic signal post. Traffic signal conduit located within the roadway shall be encased in concrete.

Present: Robert Cahoon.

Summary: This was continued pending the submission of the work order from Eversource. The order was provided August 23, 2023.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 2. New petition (235114) - Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, 344 Broadway Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: Clifton Place - A new traffic signal post is to be installed and connected with a 3-inch conduit to the existing signal.

Present: Ian Sherriff, designer of the plans.

Summary: This includes underground conduit work. Modification of existing intersection and traffic pattern at Clifton, and thus, new conduit needs to be installed.

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

Note: Matters 3-5 were heard together.

- 3. Continuation from June 15, 2023 for further review (225588) - Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090**, for the following: Albany Street - Existing gas regulator station upgrade. Relocate/replace (1) mechanical cabinet with buried gas lines, conduit and appurtenances within Albany Street at the Main Street sidewalk. Install (1) electrical cabinet with bollards, connected with (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC installed to the nearest electric pole on opposite side of Albany Street and (1) 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC to the nearest telecommunication manhole within the intersection of Albany Street and Main Street. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.
- 4. Continuation from June 15, 2023 for further review (225596) - Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090**, for the following: Cambridge Street - Beginning 150 feet +/- east of Hovey Ave, extending 6 feet +/-, along/within the north sidewalk of Cambridge Street, at existing gas regulator station, replace (1) mechanical cabinet with buried gas lines, conduit and appurtenances. Install (1) electrical cabinet with 2 bollards, connected with (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC installed to the nearest electric manhole in the sidewalk and (1) buried 1 ¼-inch PVC coated RMC to the nearest telecommunications manhole located within the intersection of Cambridge Street and Dana Street. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.
- 5. New petition (232416) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Main Street - Westerly at Albany Street, from MHC2117, thence turning and running southwesterly onto Albany Street to new telemetry cabinet, install approximately 115 feet of conduit.

Present: Jefferey Evans-Mongeon, Eversource Gas Engineer. Phyllis Galloway, Eversource Electrical.

Summary: Matters 3 & 4 had been continued last month and were not to be placed automatically on the agenda. They were to be placed on the agenda, once the corresponding electric and telecommunications petitions were filed. Although Eversource Electric submitted the electric petition (#5), the telecommunications petition from Verizon is not yet filed. These petitions relate to service at the existing Eversource station. They are to 2 new traffic cabinets for monitoring equipment of the station for both electrical and communication. Eversource has spoke to Verizon and they are aware of the petitions but there is no petition in the cue from Verizon yet and they are the ones that would be installation the communications/telephone side of these jobs.

Decision: All three petitions continued. Will not be placed on agenda, until the telecommunications petition is filed.

6. **New petition (232361) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Broadway - Southeasterly from MHC1746, approximately 10 feet southeast of Ware Street to handhole at 459 Broadway, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Customer is requesting it. This is for new service, lighting control for City of Cambridge.

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

7. **New petition (232127) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Sidney Street - Northeasterly from MH3530 thence turning and running northwesterly onto Emily Street, thence turning and running southwesterly to rear/side of private property of 149 Sidney Street, install approximately 282 feet of conduit, install one (1) new manhole MHC32116.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for an upgrade in service and also includes a new manhole. It is a 2 story building that is being converted to lab space. There is a sewer separation project from the City in the area of Emily Street. The City has to retain and save space for the work it projects to be done in the area. Therefore, test pits need to be performed as to the entire route but in particular to verify the proposed corridor at Emily Street manhole.

Decision: Continue to perform test pits.

8. **New petition (232123) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Main Street - At Sidney Street, easterly from MHC734, turning southerly to private property at 882 Main Street, install approximately 38 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for a residential upgrade to existing service. There was work performed in the area recently by other utilities. The Eversource work was unable to be done because they lacked a grant of location.

Somewhat related to the petition since the order states the customer will be performing the work, the Commission brought up the issue of customers not obtaining proper permits, such as utility and excavation permits when they are doing the work. Eversource confirmed it would relay the information to the proper entity at Eversource so they can relay it to the customers.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of permanent street and sidewalk repair/restoration.

9. **New petition (234311) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Irving Street - Westerly, from Pole 391/24, install approximately 10 feet of conduit to private property.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is an upgrade of existing service to a large residential home. There are 4 existing conduits at the pole to which they are rising. Electrical already relayed to Eversource that they must remove old service once rise up with the new service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that permanent sidewalk repair is required and that Eversource will remove 2 four-inch pipes that will become moot with this installation.

10. **New petition (234555) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Charles Street - At First Street, westerly from MHC1475, install approximately 20 feet of conduit to new traffic control box.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is a request from the customer, City of Cambridge, for new electric service for the installation of a new traffic control box.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

11. **New petition (234590) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Fresh Pond Lane - Southwesterly from MHC350, approximately 165 feet north of Meadow Way, install approximately 40 feet of conduit to private property.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Electric service to a new home. The Department of Public Works already spoke to the developer who agreed to restore the area, hence there will be no restoration or repair conditions as to Eversource's grant.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 12. New petition (235815) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Linnaean Street - Northerly from MHC1961, approximately 110 feet northeast of Potter Park, install approximately 7 feet of conduit to private property.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is an upgrade to the electric service of an existing residential building. They need the upgrade as they are adding 5 units.

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

- 13. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** July 20, 2023.

Decision: Approved.

- 14. Open Discussion/Update** Toro Blanco Group.

Documents Considered: Presentation received via email on August 21, 2023.

Summary: The Chair discussed how the company provided a presentation, an alternative to the small cell installations currently being installed in the City. This may be something that will live exclusively in Historical Districts. The City may continue discussions with the company. Public Works is represented at the meetings already and the Commission and Electrical will be represented by Commissioner Melo, if necessary. There should be no changes to the Commission's process on reviewing any pending or future applications from any utility or any changes required to the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: No vote.

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: September 21, 2023

MM MM 

Minutes Posted: September 21, 2023

TJS TJS 