

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 15, 2024, 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 (255020) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880**, for the following: Cambridge Parkway - From VZB manhole located by 23 Rogers Street, trench approximately 250 feet and install (1) 4-inch CNS communications conduit and (1) 4-inch City shadow communications conduit to existing crosswalk edge (DCR Boundary Line) at Edwin H. Land Boulevard.

Present: Jeff Harrington; and Samantha Lennon.

Summary: This is for two new conduits one for CNS and the other for the City coming out of an existing manhole. Did try to license Verizon core conduit but were not allowed. There is no MWRA infrastructure at the City of Cambridge side but yes on DCR side and already have applied for the required permits. They already have the DCR permit. Have not received any responses to the common trench. They are aware there is a lot of excavation and utility work in the area; they have engaged in numerous communication with property and site vendor because they are trying to identify utilities and will work around their schedule. The proposed corridor for duct bank needs to have test pits performed to determine whether there is enough space for what is proposed relative to the current plans the City has to separate the drain and sewer.

Decision: Continued to allow the City to perform test pits on the area relative to the City’s plan to separate the sewer and drain lines in this area. Must complete this to make sure there is enough space in the corridor for the petitioner’s conduit.

- 2. New petition (254659) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127,** for the following: Morgan Avenue - From existing Comcast manhole at the intersection of Morgan Avenue and Leighton Street, trench southerly +/- 38 feet, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduit to connect to an existing communication manhole on Leighton Street.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This is for a new connection. The only response to the common trench was to let them know they were not interested.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that need to have a shadow conduit for the City.

- 3. New petition (252864) - ExteNet Systems LLC, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186,** for the following: Rockingham Street - The Applicant seeks permission to install a Small Cell Facility per plans submitted to improve wireless service for T-Mobile. This installation will include the following: an antenna mounted to the top of the pole; a shroud for radios mounted to the pole; and an electrical meter. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing pole lines.

Present: Keenan Brinn; and Chris Fridrich. Ranjeetha Prabhu, Verizon.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto, and correspondence received regarding the petition.

Summary: This is for an attachment for existing wood pole, #1. It would consist of a top mounted antenna; the 29 foot pole will now be 34.5 feet (extended). None of the equipment would create noise (there are no fans). It is a passively cool equipment – the actual casings of the equipment is what is used to cool the equipment. It draws the heat away. The closest structure is about 15.3 feet away. Powered by electric company, using existing facilities on the pole.

The current plan for attachment does not show continuous route. All together, the route will include 4 poles. Communication is on pole 7 on Granite Street. This has not gone through historical commission; although does not appear to be on a historical area.

There is another attachment nearby; neither the Commission nor applicant could confirm whether that site was more than 150 feet away. The engineer needs to certify that the structure can sustain the load.

Decision: Tolling Agreement entered – continued to allow petitioner to provide Engineer structural report as to the pole being able to sustain the new installation, confirmation that the proposed installation is at least 150 feet away from the existing small cell in the area, confirmation from Historical Commission that this location is not under their purview, and submission from Verizon showing their aerial feed from Pole 7 to Pole 1. **[After the hearing, it was noticed that when the staff**

announced this petition, it read the description for the next matter. However, based on the discussion, the poles, context and recorded discussion, it is evident the Commission was discussing and voting on this petition. The vote was ratified at the March 2024 meeting.]

4. **New petition (252857) - ExteNet Systems LLC, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186,** for the following: Washington Street - The Applicant seeks permission to install a Small Cell Facility per plans submitted to improve wireless service for T-Mobile. This installation will include the following: an antenna mounted to the top of the pole; a shroud for radios mounted to the pole; and an electrical meter. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing pole lines.

Present: Keenan Brinn; and Chris Fridrich. Ranjeetha Prabhu, Verizon.

Summary: This is a new attachment using existing pole lines, no trenching or new conduit to be used. It is proposed on a wooden street light. The pole will remain at 34.5 feet, the antenna will be side mounted, it is about 44 feet away from nearest structure. It will be fed aurally by Verizon. Pole line from Hynes all the way to existing pole line, and onto pole 23. Have existing cable. The same situation as to the previous matter and drawings discussed.

Decision: Tolling Agreement entered - continued to allow petitioner to provide Engineer structural report as to the pole being able to sustain the new installation, confirmation from Historical Commission that this location is not under their purview, and submission from Verizon showing their aerial feed route. **[After the hearing, it was noticed that when the staff announced this petition, it read the description for the previous matter. However, based on the discussion, the poles, context and recorded discussion, it is evident the Commission was discussing and voting on this petition. The vote was ratified at the March 2024 meeting.]**

5. **New petition (252850) - ExteNet Systems LLC, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186,** for the following: Cambridge Street - The Applicant seeks permission to install a Small Cell Facility per plans submitted to improve wireless service for T-Mobile. This installation will include the following: an antenna mounted to the top of the pole; a shroud for radios mounted to the pole; and an electrical meter. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing pole lines.

Present: Keenan Brinn; and Chris Fridrich. Ranjeetha Prabhu, Verizon.

Summary: This is a new attachment on pole number is M/61, it is a City owned pole and the nearest structure is 9.1 feet away. They do not yet have any licenses. 449 Cambridge Street is a decorative pole which is 29 feet, and the replacement pole would also be 29 feet. Equipment on the side of the pole. Verizon will be providing the fiber, and Verizon should be submitting the petition this week/next week. 152 feet of conduit from manhole – new drawings shows going through cable tv handhold. Eversource work order for the condition from their manhole to their proposed manhole.

Decision: Tolling Agreement entered - continued to allow petitioner to provide Engineer structural report as to the pole being able to sustain the new installation, confirmation from Historical Commission that this location is not under their purview, submission from Verizon showing their aerial feed route, and Eversource work order.

[**Note:** The following three petitions listed as 6-8 were called together.]

6. **Continuation from August 24, 2023 to allow for telecommunications petition to be filed (232416) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Main Street - Westerly at Albany Street, from MHC2117, thence turning and running southwestly onto Albany Street to new telemetry cabinet, install approximately 115 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to install new conduit in Main and Albany. It is for electric to a new cabinet. Test pits will need to be performed, but the results are not required prior to approving just prior to work being performed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that test pits must be performed prior to work being done.

7. **Continuation from June 15, 2023 to allow for telecommunications petition to be filed (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.

Present: James Blais.

Summary: Gas component telemetry cabinet and gas piping to be installed – for new service. Test pits will need to be performed, but the results are not required prior to approving just prior to work being performed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that test pits must be performed prior to work being done, and there must be mill and overlay and permanent sidewalk repair.

8. **New petition (256066) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860**, for the following: Albany Street - Verizon to place 160 feet of conduit from existing manhole #26/17 on Main Street, to an Eversource cabinet at the corner of Main Street and Albany Street.

Present: Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: The plan uploaded originally was insufficient and engineer plans required were uploaded earlier in the day. This is for conduit from existing manhole to the Eversource cabinet. For monitoring the gas and for the upgrade. There may not be sufficient room for what is being proposed (one 3-inch conduit of PVC pipe); test pits will be required prior to work being done.

Decision: Granted with amendment that it is only one 3-inch PVC conduit, and with typical conditions, and additional condition that test pits must be performed prior to work being done.

[Note: Petitions listed as #9 & 10 were called together.]

9. **Continuation from June 15, 2023 to allow for telecommunications petition to be filed (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.

Present: James Blais.

Summary: This is for a telemetry cabinet at corner of Cambridge and Dana Streets, the underground piping and above ground cabinet.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that there must be curb to curb mill and overlay and permanent sidewalk repair.

10. **New petition (256025) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860**, for the following: Cambridge Street - Verizon to place 165 feet of conduit on Cambridge Street, from existing manhole #26/413 to an Eversource cabinet in front of 1571 Cambridge Street.

Present: Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: The plan uploaded originally was insufficient and engineer plans required were uploaded earlier in the day. This is for 156 feet on 3 inch conduit from existing manhole, and to Eversource cabinet. Upgrade for the underground pipeline gas line.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

11. **Continuation from July 20, 2023 until notification is received that the test pits have been completed, results uploaded to the record, and the petition is ready to be heard (229351) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Rindge Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue. Rindge Avenue - Easterly at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkway, install approximately 1054 feet of conduit from MHC2828 to MHC2833 via MHC2829, MHC2830, MHC2831 and MHC2832. Rindge Avenue - Easterly at Sherman Street, install approximately 1126 feet of conduit from MHC3323 to MHC3704 via MHC3324, MHC3325, MHC3405 and MHC3404. Massachusetts Avenue - Southeasterly, thence turning and running northeasterly from MHC3577, approximately 100 feet southeast of Alberta Terrace, install approximately 190 feet of conduit to property line.

Decision: No vote – matter removed from the agenda prior to the hearing as the Petitioner had not completed the test pits as required.

- 12. Continuation from January 25, 2024 until notification is received that the test pits have been completed, results uploaded to the record, and the petition is ready to be heard (253080) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125**, for the following: Albany Street. Massachusetts Avenue - At Albany Street, northeasterly from MHC22 to MHC560, install approximately 71 feet of conduit. Albany Street - Northeasterly from MHC560 at Mass Ave to MHC593 at Osborn Street, install approximately 92 feet of conduit. Osborn Street - Northerly from MHC593 at Albany Street to MHC3218, approximately 73 feet south of State Street, install approximately 307 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Test pits conducted and based on them, no changes to proposed route or installation. The work is necessary to improve electric service reliability to the area. MWRA permit uploaded to portal. This is related to the Greater Energy Project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of mill and overlay and permanent sidewalk repair throughout entire area that is affected.

- 13. Continuation from January 25, 2024 for further coordination (253793) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Albany Street and Portland Street
Albany Street - Northeasterly from MH593 at Osborn Street to MHC24 at Albany Street and Portland Street, install approximately 568 feet of conduit, and northeasterly from MHC3503 near 68 Albany Street to MHC24 at Albany Street and Portland Street, install approximately 182 feet of conduit.
Portland Street - Northerly from MHC24 at Portland Street and Albany Street to MHC754 at Main Street, install approximately 365 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Test pits performed and uploaded, no change. MWRA permit uploaded to the record. This is to improve electric service reliability.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of mill and overlay and permanent sidewalk repair throughout entire area that is affected.

- 14. New petition (256170) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Brattle Street - Southeasterly, from MHC706 to private property line, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Provide new electric service for new cabinet for DCR memorial park.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and permanent sidewalk repair.

- 15. New petition (256185) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Harvey Street - Northerly, from MHC1985 to private property line, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to provide an upgrade service, at the request of the customer, at 35 Harvey Street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 16. New petition (256181) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Dewolf Street at Mount Auburn Street - Mount Auburn Street - Northerly from MH841 install approximately 32 feet of conduit. Dewolf Street - Northerly from MH841 to MHC128, install approximately 107 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: The work is to be done at DeWolfe and Mt Auburn to improve electric service reliability in the area. There need to be test pits performed and uploaded and the Cambridge Water Department will need to be looped in based on proximity to reservoir.

Decision: Continue to conduct test pits and coordination with Cambridge Water Department.

- 17. New petition (256296) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Otis Street - Southwesterly, from MHC1495 to private property line, install approximately 46 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for an upgrade of existing service requested by the customer at 96 Otis Street. A new route needs to be found as they cannot go behind the trees; coordinate with City arborist or look at different path.

Decision: Continue to find a different path or coordinate with City arborist.

- 18. Consideration of January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Approved.

NMF 

Minutes Approved: March 21, 2024

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Minutes Posted: March 21, 2024

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