

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

Commissioner Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melon, and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant; and Kris Foster, Executive Officer.

Documents Considered: 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.

[Note: Petitions 1-4 were heard together and voted on separately.]

1. New petition (1158616) - Cambridge Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway Cambridge MA 02138, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Installing hapco lightposts, conduit, handholes, control box to replace current lighting system on Poles Existing 10 - 30, work will be done within Whittemore sidewalk (south) adjacent to IQHQ site. Install (1) new light on new Pole 10, install (10) new light posts, (11) new handholes, and 988 feet of conduit in the south (adjacent to IQHQ development) sidewalk on Whittemore Ave.

Present: Stefan Surette James Downing and Thomas Leger, PE IQHQ; Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: There are multiple poles with streetlights on them that will be changed to Hapco light posts. The streetlights will be new and meet city standards for other portions of Cambridge. Lighting outside of Whittemore Avenue will remain the same. A new lighting control system will be installed and dedicated for this lighting circuit. There was coordination with the Department of Public Works ("DPW") and they met with the utilities and all Pole numbers are accurate. There were some adjustments made

which have been uploaded to the portal. Test pits were performed by IQHQ as they are doing all of the underground work and uploaded to the record; there is enough space.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

2. Continuation from February 27, 2025 to allow for a site visit, coordination with the City (Electrical Department) and to perform test pits (1147274) - Verizon New England, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Verizon to place approximately 844 feet of conduit on Whittemore Avenue to provide new service.

Present: Stefan Surette James Downing and Thomas Leger, PE IQHQ; Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: There are multiple poles with streetlights on them that will be changed to Hapco light posts. The streetlights will be new and meet city standards for other portions of Cambridge. Lighting outside of Whittemore Avenue will remain the same. A new lighting control system will be installed and dedicated for this lighting circuit. There was coordination with the Department of Public Works ("DPW") and they met with the utilities and all Pole numbers are accurate. There were some adjustments made which have been uploaded to the portal. Test pits were performed by IQHQ as they are doing all of the underground work and uploaded to the record; there is enough space.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

3. Continuation from February 27, 2025 to allow for a site visit, coordination with the City (Electrical Department) and to perform test pits (1149613) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Joint trench with Verizon - Starting at pole #728/8 on Whittemore Avenue, trench and install (2) 4-inch conduits +/- 850 feet westerly to proposed private property handhole. Comcast additional work - Place (1) 3'x5' manhole #1 on Whittemore Avenue at Harrison Avenue, from newly placed manhole #1, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 60 feet northerly on Harrison Avenue to pole #337/2; place (1) 3'x5' manhole #2 on Whittemore Avenue at Kimball Street, from newly placed manhole #2, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 60 feet northerly on Kimball Street to pole #2; and place (1) 3'x5' manhole #3 on Whittemore Avenue at Kassul Park, from newly placed manhole #3, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 100 feet northerly on Kassul Park to pole #402/1.

Present: Stefan Surette James Downing and Thomas Leger, PE IQHQ; Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: There are multiple poles with streetlights on them that will be changed to Hapco light posts. The streetlights will be new and meet city standards for other portions of Cambridge. Lighting outside of Whittemore Avenue will remain the same. A new lighting control system will be installed and dedicated for this lighting circuit. There was coordination with the Department of Public Works ("DPW") and they met with the utilities and all Pole numbers are accurate. There were some adjustments made which have been uploaded to the portal. Test pits were performed by IQHQ as they are doing all of the underground work and uploaded to the record; there is enough space.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 4. Continuation from February 27, 2025 to allow for a site visit, coordination with the City (Electrical Department) and to perform test pits (1150939) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, 4 Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Install three (3) new manholes, MHC32600, MHC32601, MHC32602 and approximately 760 feet of conduit in Whittemore Avenue. Whittemore Ave at Kassul Park - Easterly then northerly from new manhole (MHC32602), to pole 402/1, install approximately 180 feet of conduit. Whittemore Ave at Kimball Street - Northeasterly from new manhole (MHC32601), to pole #407/1, install approximately 150 feet of conduit. Whittemore Ave at Harrison Avenue - Northwesterly from new manhole (MHC32600), to pole #337/2, install approximately 100 feet of conduit.

Present: Stefan Surette James Downing and Thomas Leger, PE IQHQ; Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: There are multiple poles with streetlights on them that will be changed to Hapco light posts. The streetlights will be new and meet city standards for other portions of Cambridge. Lighting outside of Whittemore Avenue will remain the same. A new lighting control system will be installed and dedicated for this lighting circuit. There was coordination with the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) and they met with the utilities and all Pole numbers are accurate. There were some adjustments made which have been uploaded to the portal. Test pits were performed by IQHQ as they are doing all of the underground work and uploaded to the record; there is enough space.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 5. New petition (1156430) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: New Street - From utility pole #10 on New Street, trench +/- 50 feet easterly to the stubbed conduit at the property line of 52 New Street, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduit. This is for a new service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This work will connect a new building at 52 New Street to connect to stub conduit for new service connection. The trench will be approximately 50 feet from Pole 10 to a private property for a new service connection. The Commission discussed that there are methane gas issues with Danehy Park, which is adjacent, and determined that excavation permits will be held until a health and safety plan is reviewed and approved by DPW’s Engineer. No one responded for common trench.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions: (1) health and safety plan must be provided and approved by DPW; (2) a 4-inch conduit must be added for the City conduit; and there must be coordination with Eversource and their duct bank work.

- 6. New petition (1153900) - CableVision LightPath**, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Ames Street - Place approximately 20 feet of (1) 4-inch PVC conduit from Eversource manhole #3045 on Ames Street and place new 17" x 30" handhole on Pioneer Way.

Present: Herb Bertoni.

Summary: CableVision will run conduit from an existing Eversource manhole on Ames Street over to Pioneer Way, which is private, to give service to 5 Cambridge Center (355 Main Street). The Commission added that 5 Cambridge Center is known to the City as 355 Main Street. Furthermore, two drawings submitted contradict each other: one shows a handhold on Pioneer Way, a private way, where another has it on the sidewalk. The Commission will require the handhold to be placed on Pioneer Way not the public way.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and amendments: the address of building being serviced is 355 Main Street; and handhold is to be placed on Pioneer Way not the public way.

7. New petition (1154475) - Harvard University, 784 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139 for the following: Brattle Street Construct approximately 42 feet (2) 4-inch PVC conduit reinforced concrete encased ductbank within Brattle Street from the existing manhole, to be constructed south to 84 Brattle Street (Cronkhite Hall). Construct approximately 83 feet (1) 4-inch PVC conduit reinforced concrete encased ductbank within Brattle Street from the existing manhole at the intersection of Brattle Street and James Street to 76 Brattle Street (Greenleaf). Construct approximately 121 feet (2) 4-inch PVC conduit reinforced concrete encased ductbank within Brattle Street from the existing manhole at the intersection of Brattle Street and James Street to 77 Brattle Street (Wallach House).

Present: Terry Tolosko; Ed Carren; Shane Flewelling; and Ryan Gleysteen.

Summary: This relates to the renovation of the Greenleaf House at Harvard University, 76 Brattle Street. The connection for Greenleaf right now comes from the Loeb Center. The Loeb Center is going to be renovated at the end of the year or early next year, so this project will make a new connection to 76 and 77 Brattle Street to maintain existing connectivity during the Loeb Center's renovation and to make continuity with the Radcliffe loop. 84 Brattle Street also is going to get a connection removed because that is a dorm that is also currently connected to the Loeb Center. They are going to reconnect to Harvard fiber (76 & 84) and 77.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of: mill and overlay curb to curb; and permanent sidewalk restoration. Applicant must upload updated plan showing mill and overlay work.

8. New petition (1156110) - Crown Castle, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Bristol Street - Charles Street - Flag Street - Essex Street - Pacific Street - Crown Castle is proposing to upgrade existing equipment on site in order to comply with new technology, allow for increased bandwidth and reliability for residents and businesses, enhance emergency services, and also continue to allow collocation of multiple carriers on a single pole, reducing the wireless installations on surrounding poles.

Present: Sarah Feely and Brandi Spezzano.

Documents Considered: Application submitted, and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received regarding the application.

Summary: This petition includes five upgrades to antennas on poles on Bristol Street, Charles Street, Flagg Street, Essex Street, and Pacific Street. The outside of the shroud is – there is a small

power box. Four of the upgrades are going from a taller, thinner, antenna to a shortened antenna; Essex Street's antenna will be replaced but stay the same size. These antennas are compliant with the City's small cell policy.

The Commission discussed an email chain regarding noise concerns. Crown Castle explained that the current models have fans, which sometimes can make noise if leaves get stuck in them. The new models will not have fans.

The Commission also discussed the individual poles. On Pacific Street, Crown Castle agreed to toll their petition in order to petition to add a guy wire support for the pole. Crown Castle also needs to make sure any new pole or guy wire support will not impede on the neighbor's new driveway or windows. Bristol Street's pole has been deemed unsafe and needs to be replaced. Charles Street's pole needs to be assessed before work is done. Flagg Street's pole leans significantly and will likely need to be replaced. There are no concerns with Essex Street's pole.

Decision: Tolling Agreement as to Pacific Street pending submission of Eversource petition for guy pole. Granted as to Flagg, Bristol, Charles, and Essex Streets, and with regard to Flagg, Bristol and Charles Streets with the condition that the double poles need to be removed and no new attachments can be placed until the double poles are removed.

9. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2025.

Decision: Approved.

10. Discussion – Condition of Mill and Overlay on Grants of Location.

Summary/Decision: The Commission discussed when a mill and overlay plan should be submitted for a petition, and whether to hold a grant until it is provided or approve with a condition that the plans must be submitted. There were questions as to whether the applicant would know about the mill and overlay requirement prior to the Commission's hearing – in some cases yes, in others no.

The Commission decided that the best route was not to hold up petitions pending an updated plan showing mill and overlay if the Commission adds it as a condition. Instead what will happen is that there will be a new step will be triggered saying "pending submission," requiring the submission of a mill and overlay plan approved by the DPW. This approval step will be assigned to Brian McLean. Once McLean approves the mill and overlay plan, the next steps, such as utility permits for water, etc., will be triggered.

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: June 26, 2025

MM  _____

Minutes Posted: June 27, 2025

TJS _____ TJS/ 