

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, January 22, 2026, 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.

### Administrative Matter

#### **Discussion with Verizon and Eversource as to Double Poles.**

**Present:** John Sellon, Manager (Eversource), and Ellen Cummings (Verizon).

**Summary:** The poles are all Eversource but the poles cannot be removed until all attachments are removed. The order is Eversource needs to remove first and then Verizon removes. They have been diligently working on removing them but some of the information on their end is not correct and things fall through the cracks. Verizon explained that when they remove their attachment they typically take the pole with them, unless it is a safety issue due to a road widening or something similar. Eversource also tries to do the work all at once. Set the new pole, and transfer the attachment to the new pole that same day.

Verizon was not aware of the list of double poles kept by Commissioner Melo, which identifies more double poles than Eversource and Verizon. They will take a look and address the issues.

**Decision:** No vote.

1. **Continuation from October 23, 2025 (1180433)** - Flock Group Inc., 1170 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30318, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue at Brookford Street, Rindge Avenue at Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge Street at Hampshire Street, Main Street at Osborn Street, Cardinal Medeiros Avenue at Binney Street, Galileo Galilei Way at Broadway, Memorial Drive at JFK Street, Rindge Avenue at Pemberton Street, Massachusetts Avenue at Memorial Drive, Windsor Street at Hampshire Street, Cambridge Street at N First Street, Third Street at Gore Street, Hampshire Street at Cambridge Street, Main Street at Broadway, Binney Street at Third Street, Galileo Galilei Way at Broadway - Installation of both AC-powered and solar-powered license plate reader cameras on existing City-owned poles (light poles, traffic signals, surface mount to city-owned buildings) to assist the Cambridge Police Department with criminal investigations. It's for a total of 16 poles.

**Present:** Hector Soliman-Valdez.

**Summary:** This program has been abandoned.

**Decision:** Denied as moot. All installations to be removed.

2. Comcast request for an extension to complete the work on the following sites/grants of location #282309 - Wadsworth Street at Main Street and #1149613 - Whittemore Avenue.

**Present:** Shane Flewelling.

**Summary:** The extension is being requested because Wadsworth is a new connection and they were asked to hold off because of all the work being done on Broadway. It is only 20 feet, about a one day's work which they can complete if no winter moratorium. The Whittemore Avenue developer for Alewife finished most of the work except the connection to a private connection – about a 15-20 foot trench. The work will be finished in the Spring.

**Decision:** Granted six (6) month extension with the condition that there is continued coordination with the DPW Engineer.

3. **New petition (1193299)** - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Brattle Street - Starting at existing Comcast manhole in the crosswalk on Story Street, excavate +/-70 feet westerly on Story Street, installing (1) 4-inch conduit to the private property line of 48 Brattle Street. This is for a new service connection.

**Present:** Shane Flewelling.

**Summary:** For new service connection – sold off and split up so the corner of this property cannot feed off the other properties.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

4. Crown Castle requesting an extension to complete the work on the following sites/grants of location #1160781 (Henry Street, Kelly Road, Berkshire Street, 171 Hancock Street and 136 Hancock Street);

#1165878 (Sixth Street, Market Street, Norfolk Street, 310 Columbia Street and 455 Columbia Street) and #1167948 (Antrim Street, Highland Avenue, Roberts Road, Armory Street and Ellery Street).

**Present:** Sarah Feely.

**Summary:** They are requesting the extensions because they are still waiting on equipment. It is a dominoes effect as to supply and demand. They only seek an extension until April 1, 2026. There was a discussion as to whether the equipment should be “built” already when the petitions are filed.

**Decision:** Extension granted to April 1, 2026.

5. **New petition (1193005)** - Crown Castle, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta, NY 14586, for the following: Cambridge Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install new conduit via conventional trench on Cambridge Street starting in front of 826 Cambridge Street and ending just past the intersection at Berkshire Street. Beginning at MH#0515-0200 with 39 feet for fiber feed (plus city shadow) and from EMH#115 and additional 19 feet for power feed (plus city shadow) both to meet at point “A” indicated on attached civil plan. From Point A – both fiber and power feeds (plus city shadow) will continue 110 feet to a Crown Castle proposed handhole measuring 3’ x 3’. Next, 31 feet of fiber and power feed (plus city shadow) from proposed new handhole to an additional proposed Crown Castle shared handhole. Ending with 2 feet of communication conduit and city shadow stubbed and capped on street side of curb to a Crown Castle shared handhole.

**Present:** Sarah Feely.

**Summary:** This is for an excavation totaling about 199 feet to upgrade service. Petition is showing they will trench along the concrete path bus drop off for school and library, which means it will need to be rebuilt/restored.

There is no accompanying Verizon petition, and there was a question as to whether there is already a small cell installed at this location. However, there was confusion as all handholds and everything is presented as a new installation coming off an Eversource manhole. If so, there is still no information as to the small cell. The application was deemed incomplete.

**Decision:** Continue to have the petitioner submit a complete application and get additional information.

6. **Reconsideration of petition (258908) to obtain more clarification on the status of this work** - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Otis Street - Verizon to place 225 feet of conduit from existing pole #636/125 on Sixth Street at the side of 140 Otis Street, to an ExteNet handhole at 131-133 Otis Street.

**Present:** Bryan Simmons.

**Summary:** This was related to an Extenet Petition # 256377 (small cell installation) which was abandoned by Extenet. The residents complained about not receiving notice. The Verizon petition is

related to the Extenet installation – since there is no installation, this is moot. Petitioner apologized for not withdrawing.

**Decision:** Denied/Withdrawal accepted and all materials to be removed and site to be restored to its original condition.

7. **New petition (1190746)** - Verizon New England, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Broadway - Verizon to place 80 feet of conduit from existing manhole, MH26/84, to the property line at 75 Broadway.

**Present:** Bryan Simmons.

**Summary:** This placement of conduit which goes to the private property line is to feed the new building. They expect to complete everything by late Spring early summer. This building is a bio laboratory and that is why the need for so much fiber. They could potentially end up occupying all 8 conduits. The proposal includes the added 25% for future use – they are immediately using six and two are spare. No one responded to the joint trench. The City would also need a conduit.

**Decision:** Continue to get more information as to why the requested number of conduits.

8. Eversource request for a rehearing of Petition #1176310 for Binney Street previously approved on August 14, 2025.

**Present:** Rick Branca and Benjamin Bowers.

**Summary:** This was granted but there are new test pits results that changes the petition request. They found fiber so they are now proposing to add 4 inch conduits to existing duct bank route and create minimal changes to allow for service carriers to shift to middle duct bank and add two inch conduits as well.

The shift proposed moves it 9 feet south, there is adequate space and Jim Wilcox from DPW has been on board with the change. The shift though gets them close to a gas line the DPW water line. Eversource would own and maintain the conduits and the carriers would lease it from them.

The Commission was unsatisfied with the proposal as an updated route or plans were not provided and the other carriers going into the conduits have not filed their petitions, which should be heard concurrently.

**Decision:** Continue to allow petitioner to submit the new route, updated plan showing the route and new conduit placements, and to allow utilities going into the conduits to submit their petitions.

9. **New petition (1192578)** - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Northeasterly then easterly from manhole (MHC245), at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at #2161 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 133 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for new service, at the customer's request for an 8 unit 12,000 square foot building.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions of permanent sidewalk restoration on Massachusetts Avenue and permanent trench restoration on Mill Street.

10. **New petition (1192951)** - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Hilliard Place - Northerly from pole 359/10, approximately 100 feet east of Auburn Street, install approximately 38 feet of conduit to the private way property line of Hilliard Place.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway. Ron Heifetz.

**Summary:** This is for new electric service for a new 5,500 square foot home. Ron Heifetz, a resident, complained about the double pole in the area and the number of wires.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of permanent trench restoration on Hillard Street, restoration of brick sidewalk, and no new attachments until the old pole is removed.

11. **New petition (1194208)** - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Pleasant Street - Southeasterly from manhole (MHC39), at the intersection of Green Street, to private property at #10 Pleasant Street, install approximately 17 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for an electric upgrade at the customer's request for the units in the building.

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

12. **New petition (1194539)** - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Webster Avenue - Easterly side, approximately 56 feet east of Elm St, install one pole 230/47-X and anchor guy, on the private property of the City of Cambridge.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This would be for the installation of a new pole and anchor guy related to electric service for an electric vehicle charging station. This is at the request of the City of Cambridge.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions as they relate to electric vehicle charging stations.

13. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - October 23 and November 20, 2025.

**Decision:** Approved as to both.

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**Minutes Approved:** March 5, 2026

MM\_\_\_MM/

**Minutes Posted:** March 5, 2026

TJS\_\_\_TJS/