

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, May 21, 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.

Commission Members: Nicole Murati Ferrer (present), Mark Melo (present), and Terrence James Shea (present).

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

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. **ExteNet** - Informational hearing regarding petitions #256376 for Gore Street, #252864 for Rockingham Street and #252857 for Washington Street to discuss installations, lack of compliance with Commission orders or requests for information, and status of grant of locations.

Present: Liz Kelleher.

Summary: ExteNet confirmed that it has removed all unnecessary equipment including meters, and notification stickers were placed in compliance with the Commission's orders.

Decision: Acknowledge correction and compliance with Commission's policies and condition of the grants.

Note: Matters 2 & 3 called together.

2. **New petition (1208420)** - Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC on behalf of the City of Cambridge, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Jefferson Street - On

the southern side of Jefferson Street adjacent to Gannett-Warren Pals Park, install (3) sets of electric wire in 2-inch schedule-40 PVC conduit underground from a handhole inside City of Cambridge park property to (1) dual-port and (2) single-port on-street electric vehicle charging stations.

Present: Steven Conte, Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: This request is to install three EV charging station pedestals, one dual-port and two single-port, on behalf of the City of Cambridge as part of a grant from the MA Clean Energy Center. It will include Eversource running conduit through the sidewalk to supply power to the charging stations. A utility pole will also be replaced.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional typical conditions for EV charging stations.

- 3. New petition (1203615) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Jefferson Street - Southerly from Pole 399/8, approximately 201 feet west of Marion Street, to private property at #32 Jefferson Street, install approximately 5 feet of conduit.

Present: Steven Conte, Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: This request is to install three EV charging station pedestals, one dual-port and two single-port, on behalf of the City of Cambridge as part of a grant from the MA Clean Energy Center. It will include Eversource running conduit through the sidewalk to supply power to the charging stations. A utility pole will also be replaced.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional typical conditions for EV charging stations.

Note: *Matters 4 & 5 called together.*

- 4. New petition (1208412) - Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Flagg Street - On the southern side of Flagg Street, adjacent to Corporal Burns Playground, install (2) sets of electric wire in 2-inch schedule-40 PVC conduit underground from a handhole inside City of Cambridge park property to (2) dual-port on-street electric vehicle charging stations.

Present: Steven Conte, Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: Similar to Agenda Items 2 & 3, this project is to install four EV charging stations on Flagg Street. Eversource will install conduit through the sidewalk to power the stations. There will be a service upgrade and a utility pole replaced. There are two level, two charging stations with four total ports (two per station).

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, additional typical conditions for EV charging stations, and additional condition that there be coordination with electrical department to ensure Park does not go without power.

5. **New petition (1203614) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Flagg Street - Southerly from Pole 265/10, west of Banks Street, to private property at #32 Flagg Street, install approximately 6 feet of conduit.

Present: Steven Conte, Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: Similar to Agenda Items 2 & 3, this project is to install four EV charging stations on Flagg Street. Eversource will install conduit through the sidewalk to power the stations. There will be a service upgrade and a utility pole replaced. There are two level, two charging stations with four total ports (two per station).

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, additional typical conditions for EV charging stations, and additional condition that there be coordination with electrical department to ensure Park does not go without power.

6. **New petition (1208430) - Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Corporal McTernan Street - On the northeastern side of Corporal McTernan Street, adjacent to Dana Square Park, install (2) sets of electric wire in 2-inch schedule-40 PVC conduit underground from a handhole inside City of Cambridge park property to (2) dual-port on-street electric vehicle charging stations.

Present: Steven Conte. Paul Vermouth (opposition); Rebecca Richman Cohen (support); Catherine Tutter (opposition); Maureen McNamara.

Summary: This request is to install two sets of electric wire for two dual-port EV charging stations. This is similar to Agenda Items 5&6. Eversource is not involved in this petition because the conduit running up the pole is large enough to support the upgrade so Eversource does not need to install conduit.

Paul Vermouth, a resident, raised concerns about noise from the 24/7 use of the stations. They also were concerned with rising home insurance based on they co-op's proximity to the stations. Finally, this project takes away four parking spaces for the adjacent park.

Rebecca Richman Cohen, a resident, expressed support for the stations because it is hard to find a charging station nearby.

Catherine Tutter inquired about the noise impacts on the community and whether any complaints had been received regarding other stations throughout the city. Commonwealth assured that there is very little noise associated with the stations because there are no cooling components or additional transformers that would have an "electrical hum."

Maureen McNamara expressed concern for the elderly and handicapped residents nearby and inquired whether the stations would be handicap-accessible. Commonwealth confirmed that all on-street sites are designed to have at least one ADA-compliant space and at this location there is one near a ramp on the sidewalk. The Commission also highlighted that ADA compliance is required pursuant to the rules on EV charging stations.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional typical conditions for EV charging stations.

Note: Matters 7 & 8 were called together.

- 7. Continuation from January 22, 2026 to provide additional time for DPW to coordinate with MITIMCO (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, Verizon.

Summary: This is for new service for a 75 Broadway development. Verizon has coordinated with DPW engineering for four 4-inch conduits to the edge of the sidewalk at 75 Broadway.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 8. Continuation from April 16, 2026 to provide additional time for DPW to coordinate with MITIMCO (1202226) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta, NY 14586, for the following: Broadway - Crown Castle is proposing to install 145 feet of communication conduit and conduit (City shadow) from existing telephone MH 26/542 (42.36360385, -71.08640412) on Broadway and running onto private property (75 Broadway).

Present: Sarah Feely and Bob Walls, Zayo.

Summary: Sarah Feely confirmed that Crown Castle is now Zayo, and that Fiber Asset Corp. is an affiliate. Feely explained that this project is unrelated to Verizon's project; the Commission acknowledged that both projects require similar coordination with DPW.

They have coordinated with DPW engineering for 145 feet of communication conduit, starting at a manhole and ending at private property at 75 Broadway.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 9. New petition (1207246) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Concord Avenue - Comcast proposes to place (1) new 3'x5' manhole over existing Comcast conduit on Concord Avenue from newly placed manhole, trench easterly +/-175 feet, installing (1) 4-inch conduit to the property line of 450 Concord Avenue. This is for a new service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This petition is to install one new 3x5 manhole cover over existing conduit. The new manhole is needed to avoid coming off the pole on Birch Street and to cut down on trenching on the street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition of mill and pave on Concord Avenue and permanent sidewalk repair.

- 10. New petition (1207830) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Hunting Street - On the east side of Hunting Street, +/-130 feet north of Cambridge Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x14" Comcast power supply unit to utility pole #3 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This petition is to install a power supply cabinet to a utility pole. It will avoid customer outages as Comcast expands its network. There will be no excavation.

Decision: Granted with the conditions that the double pole must be removed before new power supply added and the cabinet must match the paint of pole.

- 11. New petition (1207834) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Amory Street - On the west side of Amory Street, +/-166 feet south of Saint Mary Road, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x14" comcast power supply to utility pole #10 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network.

Present: Shane Flewelling. Molly Keenan, resident.

Summary: This petition is to install a power supply cabinet to a utility pole. It will avoid customer outages as Comcast expands its network. There will be no excavation.

Molly Keenan, a resident, expressed concern with unnecessary EMF exposure from the power supply cabinet so close to her children's bedroom. Comcast explained that nothing is coming off of the power lines that could give off EMF. Eversource, which manages the lines, will respond to Keenan's questions outside of the meeting.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the cabinet must match the paint of pole.

- 12. New petition (1207840) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Elm Street - On the east side of Elm Street, +/-97 feet north of Market Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x14" Comcast power supply to utility pole #230/15 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This petition is to install a power supply cabinet to a utility pole. It will avoid customer outages as Comcast expands its network. There will be no excavation.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the cabinet must match the paint of pole.

- 13. New petition (1205878) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Harvard Street - At the intersection of Dana Street, easterly from manhole (MHC1020) to manhole (MHC2505) via manhole (MHC2935), install approximately 206 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This project is to replace buried cable and install new conduit. It is to improve service reliability and is part of a system improvement project. The Commission expressed concern that the conduit goes behind several street trees and stated that air spading would be required prior to any grant. A continuance is required to coordinate with the City arborist to ensure no trees are damaged. Furthermore, if more than 1/3 of the sidewalk is disturbed, Eversource must make the entire sidewalk ADA compliant.

Decision: Continue to have the City arborist review the air spading and have Eversource determine whether continuing on the sidewalk and if so acknowledging that if disrupting more than 1/3 of the sidewalk, it will need to be completely reconstructed and made ADA compliant.

- 14. New petition (1206652) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Hollis Street - Westerly from pole 364/5 across from Rindgefield Street to private property at #17 Hollis Street, install approximately 3 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Eversource plans to provide new electric service to an ADU on Hollis Street. A double pole will be removed prior to installation of the new conduit.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that the double pole be removed before any new installations.

- 15. New petition (1207142) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Acorn Street - Southwesterly from pole 3/3, approximately 151 feet southwest of Putnam Avenue, to private property at #21 Acorn Street, install approximately 50 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new service to a 2,500 sq. ft. home at 21 Acorn Street. A severely rotted pole (#3) will be replaced.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that the double pole be removed before any new installations.

- 16. New petition (1208629) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Rice Street - Northeasterly thence turning northwesterly from pole 583/16, approximately 175 feet northeast of Cedar Street, to private property at #79 Rice Street, install approximately 78 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new service to a nine-unit residential building. Eversource will replace a pole prior to installation of conduit. The Commission reminded Eversource to confirm with the contractor that the pole must be removed first.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 17. New petition (1208649) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 28 Wendell Street - Southerly from manhole (MHC1786) at Oxford Street, thence turning and running westerly, to private property at #28 Wendell Street, install one new manhole (MHC32859) and approximately 382 feet of conduit. And northerly from new manhole (MHC32859) to pole 719/8 install approximately 66 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is for one new manhole and conduit for an eight-story apartment building. Eversource's designer and engineer revised their plans, which were only uploaded the day before and the morning of the hearing. A pole will also be replaced. Eversource will need to coordinate with the City Engineer because City sewer work is happening nearby.

Decision: Continue to allow Eversource to coordinate with City Engineer Jim Wilcox.

- 18. New petition (1208665) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 34 Wendell Street - Easterly from proposed manhole (MHC32859), approximately 220 feet west of Oxford Street, and thence turning northerly, connecting to spare conduit, then easterly from proposed manhole (MHC32859) to private property at #34 Wendell Street, install a total of approximately 194 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This project is to provide new service to 34 Wendell Street, with 43 new residential units. Coordination is required with the City Engineer.

Decision: Continue to allow Eversource to coordinate with City Engineer Jim Wilcox.

- 19. New petition (1209504) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Easterly from manhole (MHC3248), at Ames Street, to private property at #33 Broadway, install approximately 221 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Eversource seeks to replace damaged conduit and install new conduit on Broadway to an MIT property, a 19-story lab/office building. Coordination with DPW is required because of the busyness of the area.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that Eversource coordinate its construction schedule with DPW as Broadway is busy area.

- 20. New petition (1209509) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue and Walden Street - Southeasterly thence turning and running northeasterly form pole 697/3, southwest of Massachusetts Avenue, to manhole (MHC804), then turning and running southerly via manhole (MHC804), to private property at #2072 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 75 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new service to a 75-unit apartment building at 2072 Massachusetts Avenue. A double pole will be removed. The Commission advised that this proposal would make future work/pole replacement difficult. Eversource will try to reduce the conduit size.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that the double pole be removed before any new installations, and Eversource to update to the Commission as to the type of installation if changes are made.

- 21. New petition (1209731) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue and Clinton Street - Northeasterly from manhole (MHC304) to manhole (MHC359), then northerly via manhole (MHC359) turning and running northeasterly to private property at #847 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 119 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to install conduit, a service upgrade to 847 Massachusetts Avenue, which consists of nine units.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 22. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - April 16, 2026.

Decision: Approved.

MM____MM/👤

Minutes Posted: June 18, 2026

TJS____TJS/👤