

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, August 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Meeting started at 9:01 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 (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. **IQHQ on behalf of the City of Cambridge** requesting an extension to complete the work on the following sites/grant of location #1158616 for Whittemore Avenue.

Present: No one appeared.

Additional Documents Considered: Correspondence with regard to status of the pending work.

Summary: Petitioner provided information via written correspondence to the Commission wherein they stated they needed an extension because they were waiting for a secondary connection by Eversource and Dagle to pull the City Fire Alarm cable. Once this is done the underground will be complete - then overheads poles will come down and street lighting will be completed. Temporary lighting will be in place once the poles come down until the light posts are installed and livened. They requested a six month extension.

Decision: Six month extension, granted.

2. Discussion Novartis, Comcast, Biomed Realty, Lesley University and XO Communications, failure to pay annual maintenance fee, and ExteNet and Arium Networks LLC, failure to pay annual recurring fee for small cell installations.

Present: Shane Flewelling, Luiza Campos, Wayne Barzey, and Gerard Timmons, Comcast; Ruben Villareal and Sergio Torres, Novartis; Vern Gilchrist, Mike Miller and Amanda Pacelli, BioMed Realty; Brad Duhe, XO Communications.

Summary: Lesley University paid on 8/17 and Extenet, Arium Networks and Novartis paid on 8/18.

Comcast, BioMed and XO Communications owe \$8500. Comcast apologized for the payment not being sent in and stated it was due to a change in their internal systems. They did not have a date or timeline for when payment would be made.

BioMed stated the payment was sent on 8/13 through the mail from San Diego.

XO Communications stated the payment was in process of being sent out – go out Friday or Monday. They had a change in systems SAP type database that handles payment and certain things did not migrate correctly. They made one of the two payments, they also take care of MCI Metro, and did not notice this one was outstanding.

Decision: Apply 14% per annum to Comcast, not to BioMed or XO Communications; and consider the non-payment as reason to not approve any new petitions until the fee is paid.

3. Comcast requesting an extension to complete the work on the following sites/grants of location #278163 Huron Avenue, #1175775 Brattle Street, #282309 Main Street, #1147383 Third Street and #251964 Prospect Street.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: For #278163, the excavation is complete, restoration not completed. For #1175775, the excavation is complete, restoration not completed. For #282309, this has been held up by DPW due to excavation at Walsworth and was told to hold off because of Broadway being put as a one way and other ongoing construction at Main Street. They will pay for the DPW permit and reach back out and move forward. For #1147383, they did the street halfway but have not done the street reconstruction on the other half and were told to wait. For #251964, the restoration not complete. The Commission decided to put a deadline as to when restoration needs to be completed, and to grant extensions on other ones.

Decision: As to Petitions #278163, 1175775, and 251964, extension granted through 10/31/26; and Petitions #282309 and 1147383, extension granted through 12/31/26.

4. New petition (1223005) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Suffolk Street - On the north side of Suffolk Street, +/- 138 feet east of Norfolk Street, mount (1) new

36.8"x24.3"x14" Comcast power supply to utility pole #9 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: No excavation necessary. New power supply on Pole 9 to help maintain and advance the network. It is a double pole location and be painting the cabinet. Confirming no excavation.

Decision: Continue until annual recurring fee is paid.

5. Consideration of revocation of grants of location for **Eversource's** following sites/petitions #1150939 Whittemore Avenue, #73087 Galileo Galilei Way, #174181 Ellery Street, #169811 Main Street, #1139578 Palmer Street, #1140348 Cambridge Street, #270680 Harvard Street, #271055 Prospect Street, #1150960 Sacramento Street, #262443 Palmer Street and #262567 Cottage Park Ave.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: #73087 – not complete per City of Cambridge, they need to wait on Broadway Crossing, the G side project. #174181 and 169811 – withdrawn. #1139578, 1140348, 1150960, 262443, and 262567 – completed. #270680 – will be completed September/October with final restoration by Spring 2027. This one is a long project. #271055 – completed but still working on sidewalk restoration. The Commission decided to put a deadline as to when restoration needs to be completed, and to grant extensions on other ones.

Decision: As to Petition #271055 extension granted through 10/31/26; and Petitions #73087 and 270680, extension granted through June 2027.

6. **New petition (1218357) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Tremont Street - Westerly, approximately 118 feet southwest of Cambridge Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit from pole 672/26 to private property at #85 Tremont Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: New service per customer request. Flewelling stated Comcast had not received any request for conduit. Noted the common trench was sent out with no response. Eversource needs to complete this as soon as possible. Eversource conduit already installed and there are two additional conduits with the installation but not ownership.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that there must be permanent sidewalk repairs, and that prior to September 17, 2026, Comcast either files a petition to take ownership of the additional conduit, or in the alternative, the contractor must notify/confirm that it has removed the additional conduit.

7. **New petition (1219021) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Ivy Street – Install one (1) new manhole (MHC32920) and northwesterly, thence turning and

running northeasterly, thence turning and running northwesterly, approximately 119 feet southwest of Garden Street, install approximately 52 feet of conduit from pole 393/5 via new manhole MHC32920 to private property at #11 Ivy Street.

Garden Street - Northerly side @ Ivy Street, install (1) hip guy at pole 293/91.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: One new manhole in Ivy Street. This will be for electric service to private property. The new manhole will also be used for future customers. This is new service for 8 unit building., They will be replacing 393/5 and 393/7 one hip guy 293/1 and private property 293/91 and new pole line. They are unsure about the intended schedule for Ivy street work. The hip guy pole wire entrapment in Garden Street needs to meet ADA regulations.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that the Hip Guy Pole entrapment on Garden Street needs to meet ADA regulations, and no new attachments on the new poles until the old poles are removed.

8. New petition (1220136) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Kirkland Street - Northerly, approximately 200 feet west of Robert Road, install approximately 8 feet of conduit from manhole (MHC2964) to private property at #73 Kirkland Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Kirkland Street electric to private property, #73, for temporary service at the customer's request. The future service request and petition will be coming afterwards. The manhole is on the public way, according to the surveyors. Not sure how long the temporary service is expected to stay in place. There is no pending application for the permanent service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that temporary service is to be removed once the permanent service is approved, and thereafter, permanent sidewalk restoration.

9. New petition (1222236) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Huron Avenue - Southerly, at Royal Avenue, install approximately 66 feet of conduit from MHC1893 to private property at #9 Wyman Road.

Appleton Street - Easterly, thence turning and running southerly, approximately 95 feet north of Huron Avenue, install approximately 68 feet of conduit from pole 20/23 to MHC2283.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Conduit in Huron Avenue and in Appleton Street, on private property, for new service for 56 units. They are replacing a pole. This is a large development project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions of permanent trench and sidewalk repair, and no new attachments until the old poles are removed.

10. New petition (1222404) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Hazel Street and Garden Street - Northerly side, opposite Hazel Street, install hip guy at pole 293/97.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is explained as pole work but then it says that there is excavation. There will be some excavation for the installation of the hip guy pole. This is for system improvement.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the Hip Guy Pole entrapment needs to meet ADA regulations, and no new attachments until the old pole is removed.

11. New petition (1223095) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Northeasterly, at Ames Street, install approximately 22 feet of conduit from MHC2348 to private property at #75 Broadway.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Broadway due to relocated water line on Broadway and Ames Street. The customer has requested an upgrade. Eversource is relocating the conduit. The location is presently fed through a different way.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

12. New petition (1223303) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue and Linnaean Street - Easterly, at Potter Park, thence turning and running southerly, install approximately 120 feet of conduit from MHC1964 to private property at #1740 Massachusetts Avenue.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Conduit necessary to provide electrical work service upgrade to the location for 71 units of commercial spaces and new 6 story building.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that the pedestrian ramps and sidewalks of the intersection of Linnaean Street and Potter Park need to be reconstructed.

13. New petition (1223809) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Saint Paul Street - Northeasterly, at Saint Paul Street, install approximately 46 feet of conduit from existing manhole (MHC1206) to new manhole (MHC32921), install new manhole.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to improve reliability and provide a service upgrade and system update. The street was paved about a year ago.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions of mill and overlay as to any affected roadway with the installation of the manhole installation, and permanent sidewalk repair.

14. New petition (1224572) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Otis Street - Easterly at Eighth Street, install approximately 60 feet of conduit from MHC1509, to private property at #162 Otis Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Conduit on Otis Street to provide electric service to private property. This would be new service at the customer's request for a new three unit residential property.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

15. New petition (1224215) - Arium Networks LLC, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, for the following: Broadway - Proposing to install new small cell wireless telecommunications facility onto an existing metal streetlight pole. Work will include attaching a cannister antenna (24" x 14.6") to the pole top and attaching the shroud cabinet (70" x 22" x 23") to the streetlight.

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: There was discussion on how the application is incomplete in that it does not provide the route or manner in which the installation will get fed. There is no information as to the electrical and communications components of the application.

Decision: Denied.

16. New petition (1224220) - Arium Networks LLC, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, for the following: Berkshire Street - Proposing to modify an existing small cell wireless telecommunications facility on an existing wood utility pole. The proposed work will include removing the existing shroud cabinet (48" x 14" x 16") and replacing it with a shroud cabinet measuring 70" x 23" x 22". The existing antenna will remain the same size 24" x 14.6". We are proposing to add a co-locator to the existing location.

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: They are swapping the antenna and the shroud cabinet and antenna being increased to be able to co-locate. The new installation complies with the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Granted.

17. New petition (1224223) - Arium Networks LLC, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, for the following: Tremont Street - Proposing to install a new small cell wireless telecommunications facility on an existing utility pole. Work will include attaching a cannister antenna (24" x 14.6") mounted

approximately at 24'-10" AGL and attaching the shroud cabinet (70" x 22" x 23") mounted approximately at 15'-10".

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: This will be fed aerially. The installation meets the Small Cell Policy requirements and distance setbacks. In fact, this one had to be moved because the original installation did not comply with the building distance requirements of the Small Cell Policy. The Petitioner was almost certain they have fiber to feed the location in the existing pole. Pole 31 has Crown Castle and feeds through – if not need an attachment grant.

Decision: Tolling Agreement entered while Arium Networks confirms there is existing conduit and fiber to feed the installation.

18. New petition (1224224) - Arium Networks LLC, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, for the following: Main Street - Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing small cell wireless telecommunications facility on an existing streetlight pole. The proposed work will include removing the existing antenna (48" x 8") and replacing it with an antenna measuring 24" x 14.6" The existing shroud cabinet will remain the same size (70" x 22" x 23"). This upgrade is needed to re-configure antenna array for an additional carrier. Current antenna configuration/model cannot accommodate 2 carriers.

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: Similar to Berskshire Street this is swapping the cabinet and antenna increasing in size. Utilizing the same power and feeds on the pole.

Decision: Granted with the condition that must replace the arm that holds the light fixture to match the size of the ones on the other poles of the street.

19. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - June 18 and July 16, 2026.

Decision: Approved.

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: September 17, 2026

MM  _____

Minutes Posted: September 17, 2026

TJS  _____