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, October 15, 2026, 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 (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.*

Note: *Matters #1 & 12 were called together.*

1. **New petition (1233217)** - **Dagel Electrical Construction Corp., on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 68 Industrial Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, for the following: Foch Street - Utility to connect the new electrical hand hole to existing electric utility pole. This work includes excavation and trenching across roadway from end of Fock Street across Alewife Brook Pkwy to the sidewalk west of Alewife Brook Pkwy.

Present: Angela Moulton; Abcunas Michael, and Diane Stokes, DPW; and Phylis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: On Foch Street to provide a control box for water equipment for the City of Cambridge. Conduit for a probe to go on a sewer line for 110 volts. This if for the combined sewer overflow. Right now it is battery powered and has been really difficult to maintain consistent and reliable readings. Hence, they are switching it to utility power to have real time, more efficient data. These readings are required to be reported.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

2. **New petition (1230957)** - **Dagel Electrical Construction Corp., on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 68 Industrial Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, for the following: Sherman Street - Sawcutting existing pavement to excavate and connect existing vault to proposed cabinet and restore sidewalk.

Present: Angela Moulton; Abcunas Michael, and Diane Stokes, DPW; and Phylis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: This is another sewer overflow connection near the railroad tracks. This is the City's most trafficked and need electrical power to have more consistent and quick reporting data. Want to stop relying on battery power. No power source petition – they have existing conduit that can be used to power the new cabinet.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

Note: *Matters #3 & 4 were called together.*

3. **New petition (1231003)** - **Dagel Electrical Construction Corp., on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 68 Industrial Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Sawcut pavement for new electrical ductbank to connect to existing CSO metering manhole and go to a new electrical handhole and end at an existing electrical utility manhole. Sidewalks and driveway to be poured and restored.

Present: Angela Moulton; Abcunas Michael, and Diane Stokes, DPW; and Phylis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: Customer request to provide electrical necessary for the water equipment. This is another combined sewer overflow regulator it is the second most active location when surges during storms. Limited with the battery power so bringing in utility power to have more consistent reporting and have better real time information. Same situation as the other two sites.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. **New petition (1228119)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Southeasterly, opposite Lowell Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit from MHC2273 to control cabinet via new handhole. Install one (1) new handhole.

Present: Angela Moulton; Abcunas Michael, and Diane Stokes, DPW; and Phylis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: Customer request to provide electrical necessary for the water equipment. This is another combined sewer overflow regulator it is the second most active location when surges during storms. Limited with the battery power so bringing in utility power to have more consistent reporting and have better real time information. Same situation as the other two sites.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. **New petition (1230365)** - **RCN Telecom Services of Massachusetts/Astound**, 956 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476, for the following: Broadway - Placement of fiber optic cable in an existing conduit from Level 3 Manhole L3 0515-2800 on Broadway at Galileo Galilei Way to the private property manhole at 121 Broadway.

Present: Mark Pavone with MTP Communications.

Summary: Pulling new fiber optic cable from the manhole to go into 121 Broadway. All licenses and approvals for Level 3 and Comcast have been obtained. There is no excavation only cable placement. The Commission noted the work needs to be done at night.

Decision: Granted with the condition that a Special Noise Variance will need to be requested as the work needs to be done at night.

6. Continuation from August 20, 2026 until annual recurring fee is paid (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: Comcast has paid the annual recurring fee and there is nothing outstanding.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the double pole needs to be removed prior to any new attachments.

7. **New petition (1229802)** - **Verizon New England**, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Cambridge Street - Verizon to place 5'x2' of new conduit from mh247c to property line of 1716 Washington Street.

Present: Alexander Marrero.

Summary: Correction, this is at 1716 Cambridge Street. One new 4 inch PVC conduit per the resident's request for new service. According to the petitioner this is an existing building without Verizon service. However, the Commission noted the work had already been completed as an "emergency" – lost the Verizon line from Broadway and all the conduit needed to be replaced. The work was completed and the sidewalk restored.

Decision: Noted as a corrective application, granted with the amendment that it is at 1716 Cambridge Street and with typical conditions.

8. **Arium Network** requesting an extension to complete small cell installations on Lawrence Street under GOL 1160971 and on Henry Street, Kelly Road, and 2 on Hancock Street under GOL 1160781.

Present: Lauren Berg and Erica Sweers.

Summary: For #1160971, small cell work extension pending a pole replacement by Eversource so that they can attach the equipment. Estimated date provided by Eversource was the third quarter of 2027. For #1160781, the work is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026. Henry Street pole replacement estimated date much closer. Hancock pole attachment license was just received. Fiber replacement on the other Hancock street one. The Kelly Road one is pending regulatory approval with the federal standards – it is with the vendor. There was a question as to why the federal regulatory standard is at issue since it is a certification that needs to be made at time of submission and original hearing. Petitioner had no information as to why it had to "go back."

Decision: For Petition #1160971, extension granted through August 31, 2027. For Petition #1160781, extension granted through December 31, 2026, for 86 Henry Street, 136 and 171 Hancock Street. As to 23 Kelly Road, the request is under advisement until the next meeting, November 19, 2026, at which time the petitioner has to explain why the regulatory approval is pending/under consideration. Depending on the response, the grant for 23 Kelley Road may be extended or revoked at the November hearing.

9. **New petition (1232457)** - **Cornerstone Energy Inc., on behalf of Eversource Energy**, 222 Third Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, for the following: Vassar Street - Installation of underground electrical transmission line for GCEP (Greater Cambridge Energy Program). Transmission line will be buried at an average depth of 8 feet but going as deep as 18 feet at points to avoid utilities. Trench will be 6 feet wide.

Present: Rick Branca and Matthew O'Mara.

Summary: Asking for a one year grant of location. The utilities are not going to get to the ground within the time frame of six months. There is ongoing outreach for the work done. The easement and Memorandum of Understanding with MITIMCO has not been submitted or accepted.

Decision: Continued until easement has been accepted by MITIMCO.

Note: *Matters #10 & 11 called together.*

10. Continuation from June 26, 2025, to obtain the Health and Safety Plan and DEP approval (1168144) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: New Street - Easterly side, approximately 565 feet north of Bay State Road, install one pole 503/12-1X and a new padmount transformer PM28540 on the private property of the City of Cambridge (Danehy Park).

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Seeking to withdraw the petition per the engineer's request. There is an agreement with the resident that the pole will remain on their property for the next 2 years.

Decision: Denied as moot as it has been withdrawn.

11. Consideration of revocation of grant of location for **Eversource Energy's** petition #273917 for New Street for failure to obtain DEP approval and Health and Safety Plan.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: To install the remaining manhole necessary to the future Cambridge service. DPW reached out to DEP and they need to apply for a SW45 permit through DEP to move the project along.

Decision: Provide an extension through April 30, 2027, to allow the petitioner to obtain DEP approval and Health and Safety Plan.

12. **New petition (1228076)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Foch Street - Install one new handhole approximately 150 feet northwest of Gladstone Street. Northwesterly, approximately 150 feet northwest of Gladstone Street, install conduit from pole 73/7 to new handhole.

Present: Angela Moulton; Ashton Monroe and Diane Stokes, DPW; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

Summary: On Foch Street to provide a control box for water equipment for the City of Cambridge. Conduit for a probe to go on a sewer line for 110 volts. This if for the combined sewer overflow. Right now it is battery powered and has been really difficult to maintain consistent and reliable readings. Hence, they are switching it to utility power to have real time, more efficient data. These readings are required to be reported.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

13. **New petition (1229787)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Ash Street and Memorial Drive - Southwesterly, approximately 160 feet northeast of Memorial Drive, install approximately 165 feet of conduit from pole 27/3 to MHC1609.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Diane Stokes, DPW.

Summary: This is another petition to add electric service to a control box for water equipment on Memorial Drive for the City of Cambridge, with one pole replacement (27/13). They have already obtained the required DCR permit. This is also related to the sewer overflow system to add utility power to upgrade the system for the overflow readings. The City, through DPW, stated they would undertake the restoration of the sidewalk and the street under their miscellaneous contract. There is no corresponding City petition because based on the location one was not needed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of mill and overlay and sidewalk restoration (understanding that the City of Cambridge will take care of those), and no new attachments until the old pole (27/13) is removed.

14. **New petition (1229803)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Oxford Street - Northerly, thence turning and running westerly, approximately 139 feet north of Forest Street, install approximately 80 feet of conduit from MHC1802 to private property at #139 Oxford Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Additional Documents Considered: Correspondence with regard to the application.

Summary: Install conduit on Oxford to provide electric service upgrade at the customer's request. There was a question as to the absence of the building permit, but it is an existing structure. The Commission received an email from the customer. This is a 400 amp underground service; the customer is having very unreliable service at this time and the work is necessary to provide consistent service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions of coordination with City arborist and permanent sidewalk restoration.

15. **New petition (1230018)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Forest Street - Northerly, approximately 98 feet east of Frost Street, install approximately 8 feet of conduit from pole 270/8 to private property at #15 Forest Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new service at the customer's request. It is an existing structure; had been demolished and it is now 4 condominiums. The developer owes the restoration on the project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

16. **New petition (1230422)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Moulton Street - Northerly, approximately 200 feet northeast of Concord Avenue, install approximately 58 feet of conduit from MHC3039, to private property at #40 Moulton Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Electric service upgrade at the customer's request for 3,000 amp. They are adding a high density room and lab space. Address on the sketch.

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

17. **New petition (1230877)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway at Tremont Street - Tremont Street - Southerly, at Broadway Street, install approximately 63 feet of conduit. Broadway - Northwesterly at Tremont Street, install approximately 74 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: 10,000 square foot building with 8 units. This is new service and they would be replacing two poles 672/4 and 672/5.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions of restorations on Broadway and Tremont Street (which have already been ordered), and no new attachments until the old poles (672/4 & 672/5) are removed.

18. **New petition (1231795)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: River Street - Westerly, install conduit from existing manhole (MHC961) to new EV charging station cabinet, via new handhole. Install (1) EV charging station. Install (1) handhole.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for an electric vehicle charging station; new service at the request of the customer, the City of Cambridge. The DPW engineers wanted a westerly handold; it is a customer installed EV cabinet and space.

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

19. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - September 17, 2026.

Decision: Approved.

Additional Comments: *Commissioner Shea noted the DPW moratorium starts November 21, 2027, and any petition that is approved thereafter for work to commence immediately would need to be accompanies by an exemption to the moratorium.*

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Minutes Approved: November 19, 2026

Minutes Posted: November 19, 2026