

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 16, 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. **New petition (1216452) - Commonwealth Electrical Technologies, LLC on behalf of the City of Cambridge**, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Charles Street - On the northern side of Charles Street between Third Street and Lopez Avenue, adjacent to Anthony Costa Park, install (3) sets of electric wire in 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. This project is one of four being completed as part of a grant awarded to the City of Cambridge by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center ("MassCEC") On-Street Charging Solutions Program.

Present: Alec Pizarro, and Michelle Hunt.

Summary: This application is for disconnecting and reconnecting for a service upgrade at an existing electric vehicle charging cabinet. It will be installing conduit and wire from the cabinet to the City-owned handhole, two single charging ports and one dual port. The Commission advised the applicant to work closely with the Electric Division for the disconnect.

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

2. **Continuation from March 5, 2025, to allow Petitioner to obtain building permits for location (1195672) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Columbia Street - Westerly thence southerly and then westerly from Pole 166/57, approximately 169 feet south of Lincoln Street, to private property at #309 Columbia Street, install one new manhole (MHC32844) and approximately 120 feet of conduit.

Present: Jenny McDonnell.

Summary: This application is a customer request for new service, including replacing a pole. This request is because no other poles are available in the area. The application had been continued to get a building permit. The Commission confirmed that DPW will work with the developer to increase restoration limits with the developer. There is also an old pole which would need to be removed before any new risers can be attached.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that no new attachments are allowed until the old pole is removed.

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

3. **Continuation from May 21, 2026, to allow Eversource to coordinate with City Engineer Jim Wilcox (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: Jenny McDonnell.

Summary: This project is to install one manhole and conduit for provide electric service to 28-30 Wendell Street. This had been continued to coordinate with Jim Wilcox, City Engineer, regarding an ongoing sewer project on the street. The update design has been reviewed and the applicant has been working with DPW. The applicant believes one pole needs to be replaced but will need to confirm.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that, if a pole is being replaced, no new attachments are allowed until the old pole is removed.

4. **Continuation from May 21, 2026, to allow Eversource to coordinate with City Engineer Jim Wilcox (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: Jenny McDonnell.

Summary: This project is to install one manhole and conduit for provide electric service to 28-30 Wendell Street. This had been continued to coordinate with Jim Wilcox, City Engineer, regarding an ongoing sewer project on the street. The update design has been reviewed and the applicant has been working with DPW. The applicant believes one pole needs to be replaced but will need to confirm.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that, if a pole is being replaced, no new attachments are allowed until the old pole is removed.

5. **New petition (1217178) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Albany Street - Westerly, approximately 500 feet northeast of Pacific Street, install approximately 15 feet of conduit from MHC3044 to private property at #167 Albany Street.

Present: Jenny McDonnell.

Summary: This is a customer request for service relocation to install conduit to 167 Albany Street. The Commission advised that an 8M permit is required.

Decision: Granted, pending submission of 8M permit, and with typical conditions.

6. **New petition (1215126) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - From existing Comcast manhole on Massachusetts Avenue, excavate +/- 80 feet northwesterly to (1) proposed 24"x36" vault placed in the sidewalk between 1124 and 1130 Massachusetts Avenue, installing (1) 4-inch conduit. From proposed vault, excavate +/- 3 feet, installing (2) 2-inch conduits to the private properties of 1124 and 1130 Massachusetts Avenue. The work is due to the new building construction at 15 Mount Auburn Street. Comcast will lose its pathway to the utility pole that currently services the properties.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This request is due to new building construction such that Comcast will lose its pathway to a utility pole that services buildings. They will excavate from the existing manhole on Massachusetts Avenue and install one four-inch conduit to the sidewalk and place a new 24 x 36 vault in the sidewalk. Out of the vault, two-inch conduit will run to the properties on Massachusetts Avenue. The Commission informed the application that because the work will be done over a Redline tunnel it must be determined whether an MBTA access agreement is needed, which takes six to 12 months to obtain.

Decision: Continued to allow petitioner to reach out to the MBTA to confirm whether an access agreement is required, and if it is, then remove from the agenda until the agreement is obtained.

7. **Ratification of vote with amendments of petition #1184338 previously heard on October 23, 2025 - FirstLight Fiber Inc.**, 12 Metro Park Road, Albany, NY 12205, for the following: Concord Avenue at Moulton Street - Starting at existing utility pole #4 on Moulton Street, trench +/- 644 feet southerly to existing Verizon MH #26/566 on Concord Avenue, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduits and (2) 3'x3' FirstLight manholes on Moulton Street. *Starting at existing Eversource MH#C1103 on Concord Avenue, trench +/- 107 feet northerly to (1) proposed 3'x3' FirstLight MH on Moulton Street, installing (2) 4-inch PVC conduits.*

From newly placed MH, continue +/- 163 feet to existing utility pole #796/4-5, installing (2) 4-inch PVC conduits.

Present: Ryan Kunst.

Summary: This project will replace crushed conduit in the Verizon system. The Commission advised the applicant that close coordination with the Electric Department will be needed. There will also need to be a City shadow on the pole.

Decision: Granted as amended by petitioner and with the amendment that only a City shadow is needed to Pole 4 ½ and with conditions: typical conditions; mill and overlay on Concord Avenue curb to curb; and coordination with the City with regard to the pole.

8. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - June 18, 2026.

Decision: Minutes not yet ready. No vote.

Additional Matters Not Previously Posted on the Agenda

9. Commission Discussion Double Pole Pending Bill.

Summary: The Commission discussed pending legislation regarding double poles. The legislation would set a timeline for utilities to remove double poles, but with no enforcement authority behind it. Commissioner Melo explained that DPW does routine surveys to evaluate the double poles in the City and there has been a higher than usual double pole replacements. The legislation does not seem to have teeth as to enforcement which is the same conundrum faced at the moment.

Decision: No vote – will keep an eye out for the legislation.

10. Commission Discussion Recourse for materials in the public way that need to be removed.

Summary: The Commission discussed Extenet's equipment on Sixth and Thorndike Street (application #256377 for Otis Street). They had informed the Commission that they were not going through with the work on Thorndike Street, but some of their equipment is still there. Verizon had removed all their equipment. Extenet informed Commission staff that they would provide a timeline for equipment removal, but has not done so to date.

The Commission discussed whether there were any City ordinances that could be used to impose fines for equipment left on a public way and that the DPW does not have the ability to fine.

Decision: The Commission will seek a legal opinion as to next steps.

MM____MM/

Minutes Posted: August 20, 2026

TJS____TJS/