

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 24, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

*This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 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. **Commission Acknowledgment that Petition #268818, for an upgrade of existing equipment on poles on Oak Street and Broadway Terrace, which was currently under a Tolling agreement, has been withdrawn by the applicant, Crown Castle.**

**Decision:** Acknowledged.

**Note:** Matters listed as items 2 & 3 on the agenda were called and considered together.

2. **Continuation from June 13, 2024 pending Eversource work order, and get further information from TPT as to whether dual meters can be used by both types of vehicles (272330) - Cambridge Community Development Department, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, 02139, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - This installation of electrical vehicle charges includes: installation of a new electrical cabinet within the sidewalk area; excavation of a portion of the existing concrete sidewalk and installation of electrical conduit below ground; installation of two single-head and one dual-head level two electric vehicle charging stations (4 total chargers) and creation of a new pedestrian curb ramp to create ADA accessible path to the electric vehicle charging station interface.**

**Present:** Charles Creagh, City of Cambridge; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

**Summary:** Two of the proposed would be at registered and 2 at the meters. Traffic, Parking and Transportation will not allow double use of the meters (16.3F) – meaning, non-electric vehicles cannot park at the EV meter, and an EV vehicle must be plugged in if parked at the EV meter.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and those of EV charging stations.

3. **New petition (769711) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Southerly from MHC488, approximately 222 feet south of Chauncy Street, install approximately 20 feet of conduit, in one new manhole MHC32557.

**Present:** Charles Creagh, City of Cambridge; and Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This would be one new manhole to provide electric service and power the EV charging station.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

4. **Continuation from August 22, 2024 pending results of CNS's review as to whether they need the new trench (see petition #270028), further coordination with Verizon to see if there is any existing conduit that can be used by Zayo Group, and further review of plan (278784) - Zayo Group**, 1805 29th Street, Boulder, CO 80301, for the following: Binney Street - Starting at Verizon MH#26/306A on Binney Street, trench +/-187 feet easterly to a proposed 24"x36" Zayo handhole intercepting (1) of the previously installed Joint Trench Conduits feeding 290 Binney Street, installing (2) 4-inch PVC conduits (1 - 4-inch conduit for Zayo and 1 - 4-inch conduit for City Shadow). *The CNS petition has been since withdrawn (#270028).*

**Present:** Chris Cemers; and Bill Conway.

**Summary:** Joint petition with CNS, have withdrawn it so revised as they still need to go. CNS was able to use their existing conduit. Trying to eliminate the handhold in the roadway. They may be able to eliminate about 15 feet of excavation.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**Note:** *Matters listed as items 5 & 6 on the agenda were called and considered together.*

5. **Continuation from March 21, 2024 - removed from the agenda until such time as a final proposal by Verizon, Eversource and ExteNet is provided to Commissioner Melo, and after Commissioner Melo reviews and confirms the final plan and petition(s) make sense and are complete, then the matter(s) will be placed on the agenda for the Commission's consideration (258908) - 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, Verizon; and Keenan Brinn, Dan Ryan, ExteNet.

**Summary:** New service for ExteNet. Small cell at Otis Street, existing pole that would be replaced. Would meet all ADA requirements. The City conduit will be used. Remove the light and the small cell. Verizon will be needed but Eversource will not be needed for the small cell. The installation would be 15 feet away from closest building. Pole is metal, so the City will remove. Also, there will be some excavation by ExteNet for the base of the pole.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of mill and overlay on Sixth Street and permanent trench and sidewalk repair on Otis Street.

6. **Continuation from July 18, 2024 – Tolling agreement entered - Removed from the agenda until such time as a final proposal by Verizon, Eversource and ExteNet is provided to Commissioner Melo, and after Commissioner Melo reviews and confirms the final plan and petition(s) make sense and are complete, then the matter(s) will be placed on the agenda for the Commission's consideration (256377) - ExteNet Systems LLC**, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186, for the following: Otis Street - The Applicant seeks permission to install a Small Cell Facility per plans submitted. This installation will include the following: an antenna mounted to the top of the newly replaced pole; an equipment shroud for radios mounted to the pole; power and fiber cabling as needed. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing infrastructure.

**Present:** Bryan Simmons, Verizon; and Keenan Brinn, and Dan Ryan, ExteNet.

**Summary:** New service for ExteNet. Small cell at Otis Street, existing pole that would be replaced. Would meet all ADA requirements. The City conduit will be used. Remove the light and the small cell. Verizon will be needed but Eversource will not be needed for the small cell. The installation would be 15 feet away from closest building. Pole is metal, so the City will remove. Also, there will be some excavation by ExteNet for the base of the pole.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

7. **Continuation from April 25, 2024 to have an onsite meeting to determine an alternate route (262580) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Northwesterly from SNV5015 to #1353 Cambridge Street, install approximately 62 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Per request of Commission to provide new service to 1353-1355 Cambridge Street. This will need to happen prior to moratorium. There was a meeting with Eversource and although this was a newly constructed area it was the only possible route.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that the work must be completed before the construction moratorium of 2024, and there must be permanent trench and restoration within 30 days of installation.

8. **New petition (286557) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Irving Street - Southwesterly from pole 391/12, north of Ashton Place, install approximately 10 feet of conduit and one new manhole, MHC32502; westerly from new MHC32502 to private property at #37 Irving Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit; and easterly from new MHC32502 to private property at #36 Irving Street, install approximately 36 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Intercepting existing conduit to provide an electric service upgrade to 36 and 37 Irving Street. There is no additional riser. This was a customer requested upgrade.

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

9. **New petition (287689) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Holworthy Street and Holworthy Terrace - Southwesterly from Pole 370/15, approximately 90 feet north of Park Avenue, to Holworthy Terrace, install approximately 50 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Conduit on street to provide new electric service.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

10. **New petition (289701) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Ellery Street - Southwesterly from MHC2537, approximately 197 feet southwest of Harvard Street, then northwesterly to private property at #21 Ellery Street, and southwesterly to existing conduit at #12-16 Ellery Street, install approximately 272 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for the new Ellery Street electric vehicle charging station.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

- 11. New petition (289709) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Irving Street - Northeasterly from pole 391/42, approximately 174 feet southeast of Francis Avenue, to private property at #138 Irving Street, install approximately 37.5 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for a service upgrade at 138 Irving Street. It was a customer requested upgrade with no changes to the character of the building.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of permanent trench and sidewalk restoration and coordination with city arborist.

- 12. New petition (289702) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Inman Street - Northeasterly from MHC 1821, approximately 240 feet southwest of Saint Mary Road, to private property at #72-72.5 Inman Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for new service at 278 Inman Street.

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

- 13. New petition (546478) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: River Street - Westerly from MHC1594, west of Green Street, to customer handhole, install approximately 5 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Customer to install handhold in sidewalk and there to traffic control cabinet. This is for new electric cabinet services at River, Green and Western Streets.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

- 14. New petition (290330) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Bigelow Street - Southeast from MHC 2047, approximately 335 feet southwest of Harvard Street, to private property at # 24 Bigelow Street, install approximately 5 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Customer to install conduit on Bigelow to provide an electric upgrade to 26-28 Bigelow Street.

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

- 15. New petition (290337) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Prospect Street - Northeasterly from MHC 1207, south of Saint Paul Street, to private property at #96 Prospect Street, install 92 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Conduit to provide an electric upgrade (two condos) on Prospect Street. There are no changes to character of the building and the requires was made by the customer. The area is getting paved by DPW on October 25, so there will need to be restoration.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of mill and paving half the roadway.

- 16. New petition (546484) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridgepark Drive - Southerly from MHC3110, east of Steel Place, to private property, install approximately 5 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is to install temporary conduit on Cambridge Park Drive to feed the MBTA trailers and steel place at Cambridge Park Drive.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that they must remove temporary service when work is completed and sidewalk permanent restoration is required.

**Note:** *Matters listed as items 17-19 on the agenda were called and considered together.*

- 17. New petition (288441) - Eversource Energy**, 38 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, for the following: Vassar Street - Eversource is seeking permission to install a 115 kv underground system as part of their Greater Cambridge Energy Project.

**Present:** Rick Branca; Charles Eck; Jason Wright; Rob Jones; and Ken Roberts.

**Summary:** This is part of Eversource's Greater Cambridge Energy Project. It is encased PVC to provide electric service to underground station being built between Binney and Broadway Streets. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that is going to be signed with the City but it has yet to be finalized. That will happen before construction which is expected to start in January 2025. They have been regularly meeting with DPW for the last five months and will continue to have ongoing meetings.

There was a question as to whether the MOU should be signed first and provided to the Commission to ensure the terms of the agreement were part of the decision.

**Decision:** Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.)

- 18. New petition (288443) - Eversource Energy**, 38 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, for the following:  
Third Street - Eversource is seeking permission to install a 115 kv cable encased in conduit.

**Present:** Rick Branca; Charles Eck; Jason Wright; Rob Jones; and Ken Roberts.

**Summary:** This is part of Eversource's Greater Cambridge Energy Project. It is encased PVC to provide electric service to underground station being built between Binney and Broadway Streets. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that is going to be signed with the City but it has yet to be finalized. That will happen before construction which is expected to start in January 2025. They have been regularly meeting with DPW for the last five months and will continue to have ongoing meetings. There was a question as to whether the MOU should be signed first and provided to the Commission to ensure the terms of the agreement were part of the decision.

**Decision:** Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.)

- 19. New petition (288448) - Eversource Energy**, 38 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, for the following:  
Cambridge Street - Eversource is seeking permission to install a 115 kv electric line encased in conduit.

**Present:** Rick Branca; Charles Eck; Jason Wright; Rob Jones; and Ken Roberts.


**Summary:** This is part of Eversource's Greater Cambridge Energy Project. It is encased PVC to provide electric service to underground station being built between Binney and Broadway Streets. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that is going to be signed with the City but it has yet to be finalized. That will happen before construction which is expected to start in January 2025. They have been regularly meeting with DPW for the last five months and will continue to have ongoing meetings. There was a question as to whether the MOU should be signed first and provided to the Commission to ensure the terms of the agreement were part of the decision.

**Decision:** Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.)


**20. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - September 19, 2024.

**Decision:** Approved.

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**Minutes Approved:** November 21, 2024

MM\_\_\_\_MM/

**Minutes Posted:** November 21, 2024

TJS\_\_\_\_TJS/