

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, November 21, 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. Ratification of Modified Vote [Matter Heard October 24, 2024] Petition #288441 - Eversource Energy, to install a 115 kv underground system as part of their Greater Cambridge Energy Project at Vassar Street. Commission 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.) Post meeting, it was determined the vote should be corrected and was recorded to be as: *Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding and with typical conditions (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.).*

Decision: Vote ratified as amended.

2. Ratification of Modified Vote [Matter Heard October 24, 2024] Petition #288443 - Eversource Energy, to install a 115 kv cable encased in conduit as part of their Greater Cambridge Energy Project at Third Street. Commission 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.) Post meeting, it was determined the vote should be corrected and was recorded to be as: *Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding and with typical conditions (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.).*

Decision: Vote ratified as amended.

3. Ratification of Modified Vote [Matter Heard October 24, 2024] Petition #288448 - Eversource Energy, to install a 115 kv electric line encased in conduit as part of their Greater Cambridge Energy Project at Cambridge Street. At the meeting, the Commission 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.) Post meeting, it was determined the vote should be corrected and was recorded to be as: *Granted pending submission Memorandum of Understanding and with typical conditions (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to designate Commissioner Shea to vote on petition once the Memorandum of Understanding was executed and received.)*.

Decision: Vote ratified as amended.

[Note: Petitions listed as #4 & 5 on the agenda were called/considered together.]

4. New petition (288439) - Eversource Energy, 38 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, for the following: Ames Street - Eversource is proposing to install a 115kv cable for transmission and distribution.

Present: Rick Branca, Charles Eck and Ken Roberts.

Summary: Two runs routes onto Broadway onto Ames Street, in conjunction with the routes presented last month.

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

5. New petition (288446) - Eversource Energy, 38 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, for the following: Broadway and Third Street - Eversource is seeking permission to install a 115 kv electrical line encased in conduit.

Present: Rick Branca, Charles Eck and Ken Roberts.

Summary: Related to previous petition no additional discussion.

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

[Note: Petitions listed as #6 & 7 on the agenda were called/considered together.]

6. Continuation from July 18, 2024 - Tolling Agreement entered - Continued while there is an agreement reached with Cambridge Redevelopment Authority for the installation, and Verizon submits a new plan and test pits are performed (271968) - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive,

Westborough, MA, 01581, for the following: Main Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install a total of approximately 57 feet of conduit - from Eversource manhole 782 on Main Street at Broadway to a proposed Crown Castle handhole in the sidewalk - approximately 47 feet, then from the proposed Crown Castle handhole to a relocated Small Cell node location - approximately 3 feet, and from there approximately 7 feet from new node location towards the curb, to be stubbed and capped on the street side of the curb, to be connected to future proposed conduit by Verizon. The existing City pole will be removed, and it will be replaced with a "look-a-like" pole matching City of Cambridge style.

Present: Brandi Spezzano & Sarah Feely; Joel Smith; Bryan Simmons.

Summary: Private property – something that has to be addressed between CRA and petitioner.

Decision: Denied as moot, Commission has no jurisdiction.

7. Continuation from July 18, 2024 while there is an agreement reached with Cambridge Redevelopment Authority for the installation, and Verizon submits a new plan and test pits are performed (275969) - Verizon New England, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to place 80'x2' of new conduit from MH319 on Main Street to Crown Castle shared handhole on Main Street.

Present: Brandi Spezzano & Sarah Feely; Joel Smith; Bryan Simmons.

Summary: Private property – something that has to be addressed between CRA and petitioner.

Decision: Denied as moot, Commission has no jurisdiction.

8. Continuation from August 22, 2024 for confirmation of DCR approval for work on Alewife Brook Parkway; MWRA 8M permits which need to be uploaded to the petition; test pits for the entire length of the corridor; confirmation as to whether they looked at using existing duct bank on the opposite side of the street and if so, reason why they are not using it; and survey results of existing conduit which need to be uploaded to the petition (281007) - Verizon New England, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Cambridge Park Drive - Verizon to place (4) new manholes and approximately 2,157 feet of conduit from proposed manhole, MH477D, on Cambridgepark Drive to the intersection with Alewife Brook Parkway.

Present: Bryan Simmons; Brian Callahan.

Summary: Since last heard they have received DCR approval, MWRA permit was uploaded, and there was a meeting with Commissioner Melo on site. Cannot use existing conduit because diverse circuit and this would make sure that if one did not work, it would remain functional. Nothing is uploaded on OpenGov. It is a dig to feed one building and creates a lot of disruption for the public. The last meeting test pits for the corridor were required but petitioner did not do them as they wanted to get approval first. There is conduit on City lights. Survey was done but not uploaded. There may be request from others to now join.

Decision: Continue, and during that time the petitioner needs to send another common trench letter, do test pits and upload the results, and do the survey and upload the results.

9. New petition (1140140) - Verizon New England, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Brattle Street - Verizon to place approximately 110 feet of new conduit from existing MH219 on Brattle Street to 31 Brattle Street.

Present: Bryan Simmons.

Summary: Manhole 219 Brattle to provide new service to 31 Brattle Street. Building is not currently fed, and there are no existing conduits that can be utilized, and no current pathway to the section. This would be an involved excavation for one building. If they enter the building digging into the sidewalk, they would avoid lifting the bricks. If approved, petitioner is looking to work through winter moratorium, so it is a pressing matter.

Decision: Granted with the condition that if they could cross the sidewalk enter the building rather than digging the whole length that is the route to be taken, otherwise granted as petitioned and, regardless of route, with typical conditions, and additional conditions of permanent sidewalk and roadway repair.

10. New petition (1140518) - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581, for the following: Granite Street, Gore Street and First Street - Crown Castle is proposing a modification to the existing antennas on Granite Street, Gore Street and First Street. Currently the existing antenna is 4' x 1.2'. The new antenna will measure 2' x 1.2'.

Present: Brandi Spezzano and Sarah Feely.

Summary: Antenna size is going to be smaller – complies with all provisions of Small Cell Policy. Petitioner confirmed it is all aerial work and there is no excavation involved. Not replacing any poles – Commissioner Melo believes they are going to do so. They were all just antenna replacements. Due to utility standards.

Decision: Granted with condition that if there are any pole replacements, the double pole is removed prior to the new installation.

11. New petition (290334) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mellen Street - Westerly then northerly from pole 479/7, approximately 330 feet east of Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at 11-13 Mellen Street, install approximately 99 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway. Gueve Ataie, owner. Beth Zeitlin, resident.

Summary: Discussed the issue of notification to abutters – need that uploaded as we are getting complaints of the links to the meeting being incorrect and information insufficient for abutters to find information.

Work necessary to provide electric service upgrade to 11-13 Mellen. The service upgrade was requested by customer that has done complete renovation on property. Gueve, owner and developer, inquired whether Comcast could share the trench with Eversource. It was discussed the project does not fall within common trench criteria as it is a primary conduit to the transformer; Comcast would need to create their own trench and they are in the process of petitioning.

Beth Zeitlin, #8 Mellen, expressed concern as to the massive builds, and current easement for path for Eversource. Zeitlin complained as to the lack of communication with them. Jason Wright will provide information as to what is going on and level of disruption. If pole needs to be replaced it needs to be removed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that they must removal of double pole before any new attachments, and petitioner needs to communicate with Beth Zeitlin.

12. New petition (1140338) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mellen Street - Southeasterly from MHC491, at Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at 4 Mellen Street, install approximately 12 feet of conduit, and, northerly from MCH1592, east of Massachusetts Avenue, to pole 479/4, install approximately 40 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; Beth Zeitlin, resident.

Summary: 1627 Massachusetts Avenue service upgrade requested by the client, and new 25 unit building to be built on existing parking lot. It would run down the pole and underground, no overhead wires. Beth Zeitlin, #8 Mellen, expressed concern as to the massive builds and how this will directly impact their access to their property.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of reconstruction of pedestrian ramp, and petitioner needs to communicate with Beth Zeitlin.

13. New petition (1139578) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Palmer Street - Southwesterly from MHC1078, approximately 110 feet south of Church Street, to private property at 12 Palmer Street, install approximately 20 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Electric to 12 Palmer only option no space; same previous contractor to do this work – Harvard Coop project – new service. Road of control plan, permanent restoration of any affected area. Restoration needs to be done by end of Spring 2025.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of road control plan, permanent restoration of any affected area and, if work is performed during moratorium, the restoration needs to be done by end of Spring 2025.

14. New petition (1140334) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Westerly from MHC282, approximately 175 feet southeast of Brookline Street, to private property at 424 – 464 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 58 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: 464 Massachusetts Avenue upgrade – complete rehab turned into a bar. Cannot use existing conduit at location. This is in heart of Central Square outdoor dining, if approved it would need to be done during the moratorium to have less disruption to local restaurants. However, it was noted this would be work all on sidewalk and the patios are on the street – it is an adverse impact during the patio season.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that the work must be performed during moratorium, and that there is continued coordination with the businesses in the area.

15. New petition (1140353) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Southeasterly from MHC3499 and southeasterly from MHC3498, southeast of Albany Street, to Memorial Drive, install approximately 1,643 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Improve electric service reliability to transfer the load from Kendall to Putnam. There needs coordination with Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department and Department of Public Works. Test pits will be needed and restoration extent will be determined during excavation.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that there needs to be continued coordination with Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation and Public Works, test pits are to be performed, and extent of restoration will be determined upon and pending excavation.

[Note: Petitions listed as #16 & 17 on the agenda were called/considered together.]

16. New petition (1140344) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street and Prospect Street - Northeasterly from MHC348, at corner of Prospect Street and Cambridge Street, to MHC2431, install approximately 54 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: New manhole on Columbia and new conduit on Prospect and Cambridge Streets to be able to do a service upgrade. The building is being converted into a new lab and office space. Will need to do test pits.

Decision: Continued to perform test pits.

17. New petition (1140348) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Columbia Street at Cambridge Street - Northeasterly from MHC2428 at Cambridge Street to private property at 1035 Columbia Street, install approximately 418 feet of conduit and one new manhole, MHC32501.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: New manhole on Columbia and new conduit on Prospect and Cambridge Streets to be able to do a service upgrade. The building is being converted into a new lab and office space. Will need to do test pits.

Decision: Continued to perform test pits.

18. New petition (1142091) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue and Hancock Street - Westerly from MHC362, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Hancock Street, to private property at 922 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 23 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new electric service at 922 Massachusetts Avenue for 31 units. The work needs to be done as soon as possible. This is a re-write. Previously approved as 91097.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition of permanent restoration of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps.

19. New petition (1141322) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Northeasterly from the Watertown/Cambridge town line to MHC1444(R) just east of Gerry's Landing Road, install approximately 3,785 feet of conduit and 10 new manholes, MHC32395, MHC32396, MHC32397, MHC32398, MHC32399, MHC32400, MHC32401, MHC32402, MHC32403 and MHC32404.

Decision: Continued.

20. New petition (1141450) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Appian Way - Northeasterly from MHC2034, approximately 120 feet northeast of Brattle Street, to private property at 57 Brattle Street, install approximately 20 feet of conduit. This is to provide electric service to 6 Appian Way.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: 6 Appian Way temporary service to feed Harvard University project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that the temporary service must be removed from the public right of way when the work is completed.

21. New petition (1141978) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Larch Road and Larchwood Drive
Larch Road - Northerly from MHC709 at Brattle Street, to pole 426/3, install approximately 115 feet of conduit. Larchwood Drive - Southerly from MHC3566, approximately 265 feet south of Fresh Pond Parkway, to private property at 16 Larchwood Drive, install approximately 20 feet of conduit.


Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: New service to a large single family home.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of coordination with City arborist, and no new risers until old pole is removed.

22. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - October 24, 2024.

Decision: Approved.

NMF____

Minutes Approved: January 23, 2025

MM____MM/

Minutes Posted: January 24, 2025

TJS____TJS/