

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, February 27, 2025, 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.

**[Note: Matters listed as #1, 2 & 3 on the agenda were called and considered together.]**

1. **New petition (1147274) - Verizon New England**, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Verizon to place approximately 844 feet of conduit on Whittemore Avenue to provide new service.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau, Verizon; Shane Flewelling, Comcast; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

**Summary:** They received a request from Alewife Park to relocate and remove the underground on Whittemore Avenue. They are beginning a trench of 850 feet and doing reconnection on Whittemore Avenue. Reconnecting to underground system. This was a customer requested service upgrade. The City was not previously aware of this project and more information is required from Eversource. This will include the relocation of street lights and there needs to be communication. Prior to any approval, test pits will be required.

**Decision:** Continue for a site visit, coordination with the City (electrical department) and test pits.

2. **New petition (1149613) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following:  
Whittemore Avenue - Joint trench with Verizon - Starting at pole #728/8 on Whittemore Avenue, trench and install (2) 4-inch conduits +/- 850 feet westerly to proposed private property handhole. Comcast additional work - Place (1) 3'x5' manhole #1 on Whittemore Avenue at Harrison Avenue, from newly placed manhole #1, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 60 feet northerly on Harrison Avenue to pole #337/2; place (1) 3'x5' manhole #2 on Whittemore Avenue at Kimball Street, from newly placed manhole #2, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 60 feet northerly on Kimball Street to pole #2; and place (1) 3'x5' manhole #3 on Whittemore Avenue at Kassul Park, from newly placed manhole #3, trench and install (1) 4-inch conduit +/- 100 feet northerly on Kassul Park to pole #402/1.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau, Verizon; Shane Flewelling, Comcast; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

**Summary:** They received a request from Alewife Park to relocate and remove the underground on Whittemore Avenue. They are beginning a trench of 850 feet and doing reconnection on Whittemore Avenue. Reconnecting to underground system. This was a customer requested service upgrade. The City was not previously aware of this project and more information is required from Eversource. This will include the relocation of street lights and there needs to be communication. Prior to any approval, test pits will be required.

**Decision:** Continue for a site visit, coordination with the City (electrical department) and test pits.

3. **New petition (1150939) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, 4 Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Install three (3) new manholes, MHC32600, MHC32601, MHC32602 and approximately 760 feet of conduit in Whittemore Avenue.  
Whittemore Ave at Kassul Park - Easterly then northerly from new manhole (MHC32602), to pole 402/1, install approximately 180 feet of conduit.  
Whittemore Ave at Kimball Street - Northeasterly from new manhole (MHC32601), to pole #407/1, install approximately 150 feet of conduit.  
Whittemore Ave at Harrison Avenue - Northwesterly from new manhole (MHC32600), to pole #337/2, install approximately 100 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Ross Bilodeau, Verizon; Shane Flewelling, Comcast; and Phyllis Galloway, Eversource.

**Summary:** They received a request from Alewife Park to relocate and remove the underground on Whittemore Avenue. They are beginning a trench of 850 feet and doing reconnection on Whittemore Avenue. Reconnecting to underground system. This was a customer requested service upgrade. The City was not previously aware of this project and more information is required from Eversource. This will include the relocation of street lights and there needs to be communication. Prior to any approval, test pits will be required.

**Decision:** Continue for a site visit, coordination with the City (electrical department) and test pits.

4. **New petition (1152335) - CableVision LightPath**, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Main Street - Placement of approximately 837 feet of fiber optic cable from EMH#765 to EMH#2341 to EMH#2342 to EMH#3045 to 5 Cambridge Center.

**Present:** Herb Bertone.

**Summary:** This is for the placement of fiber optic cable down over to Main Street and Ames into Cambridge Center for underground system. No excavation. The work will be done at night, and therefore, they will need a Special Noise Variance.

**Decision:** Granted.

5. **New petition (1148572) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: JFK Street at Brattle Street - From existing Comcast manhole on JFK Street, trench +/-200 feet northerly to the kiosk in Harvard Square, installing (1) 3-inch conduit. This is a City of Cambridge project.

**Present:** Shane Flewelling.

**Summary:** Request from the City to bring new fiber cable from their manhole to the kiosk. Still need an 8M permit from MWRA. They will need to add a City conduit of the same size.

**Decision:** Granted, pending submission of an 8M permit, with typical conditions and the additional condition and amendment that an additional 3-inch conduit for the City is installed.

**[Note: Matters listed as #6, 7 & 8 on the agenda were called and considered together.]**

6. **New petition (1150123) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Highland Street - Comcast to take ownership of (1) 2-inch conduit to be placed by the developer, +/- 5 feet southerly from new pole #356/6 to the property line of 22 Highland Street for new underground service connection.

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

**Summary:** Developer at address installed a 2-inch conduit on a new pole and they are looking to take ownership to provide new service. The anchor guy no longer will be placed. They will put one new pole, and install conduit on Highland for electric service for 6K home. This is taking overhead service to underground service. Commission noted that developer needs to be reminded that they need to complete the utility permits.

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

7. **Continuation from August 22, 2024 pending confirmation from Comcast as to whether they are joining the trench (see #277626), and for more information as to where the anchor guy is necessary and if necessary where will be installed with the notation that it cannot be on the sidewalk (277624) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the

following: Highland Street - South side, approximately 290 feet east of Appleton Street, install one pole, pole #356/6.

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

**Summary:** Developer at address installed a 2-inch conduit on a new pole and they are looking to take ownership to provide new service. The anchor guy no longer will be placed. They will put one new pole, and install conduit on Highland for electric service for 6K home. This is taking overhead service to underground service. Commission noted that developer needs to be reminded that they need to complete the utility permits.

**Decision:** Granted with the amendment that the anchor guy will not be installed.

8. **Continuation from August 22, 2024 pending confirmation from Comcast as to whether they are joining, and if so, pending the submission of Comcast's petition for their conduit (277626) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Highland Street - Southwesterly from pole #356/6, approximately 290 feet east of Appleton Street, to private property at #22 Highland Street, install approximately 15 feet of conduit.

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

**Summary:** Developer at address installed a 2-inch conduit on a new pole and they are looking to take ownership to provide new service. The anchor guy no longer will be placed. They will put one new pole, and install conduit on Highland for electric service for 6K home. This is taking overhead service to underground service. Commission noted that developer needs to be reminded that they need to complete the utility permits.

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

9. **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.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Ten new manholes on Mt. Auburn to improve electric service in the area. All are primaries. Additional approval from DPW and DOT will be required.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions: construction details regarding duct bank on Mt. Auburn and Belmont Street must be provided by Eversource to DPW and DOT and must first be approved by DPW and DOT; submission of 8M permit; test pits results must be provided and any amendments done based on those results must be disclosed and an updated plan with the new route must be provided; mill and overlay on Mt. Auburn Street; and all pavement markings must be restored within 90 days of completion of the project.

- 10. New petition (1149858) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Parkway Terrace - Easterly from pole #346/2, at the intersection of Grozier Road, to private property at #2 Parkway Terrace, install approximately 45 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is to provide new service – this was a gut rehab 4,900 square foot home.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

- 11. New petition (1150960) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Sacramento Street - Southeasterly, thence easterly, then southerly from manhole (MHC497), at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at #6 Sacramento Street, install approximately 162 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for a customer requested service upgrade for 7 unit building.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

- 12. New petition (1151223) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Vassar Street - Northerly side, approximately 140 feet east of Amesbury Street, install one stub pole #690/75S, 10 feet east of stub pole #690/75S install one anchor.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Stub pole and anchor guy to improve electric service reliability improvement in the area.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**[Note: Matters listed as #13 & 14 on the agenda were called and considered together.]**

- 13. New petition (280653) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Pearl Street - Southwesterly from pole #538/49-5 to customer handhole, install approximately 10 feet of conduit in Pearl Street.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway, Eversource (electric); and James Blais, Eversource (gas).

**Summary:** This is for electric service for Eversource gas component. The gas component being district regulator for system controls – it would be an upgrade to current service to meet current regulations. There are no communication conduits.

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

- 14. New petition (1151716) - Eversource Energy**, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090, for the following: Pearl Street - Beginning approximately 30 feet southwest of Putnam Avenue, extending approximately 70 feet +/- along/within northwest side of Pearl Street within sidewalk, install one mechanical cabinet, replace gas regulator control and monitor pits and interconnect with buried supply/main line(s) and conduit. Install one handhole and one electrical cabinet within sidewalk, connected with underground conduit. Cabinets to be protected with bollards (two each) between cabinets and roadway. Connect associated pressure transmitters, PVC coated primaries, sense lines and vents. Work required to improve/upgrade existing control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway, Eversource (electric); and James Blais, Eversource (gas).

**Summary:** This is for electric service for Eversource gas component. The gas component being district regulator for system controls – it would be an upgrade to current service to meet current regulations. There are no communication conduits.

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

- 15. New petition (1151706) - Eversource Energy**, 247 Station Drive, SE210, Westwood, MA 02090, for the following: Western Avenue - Beginning 40 feet west of Putnam Avenue curb, extending 100 feet +/- along/within south side of Western Avenue sidewalk, install one mechanical cabinet, replace gas regulator pit(s) with new control, monitor and slam shut, interconnect with buried 4-inch CSHP, 6-inch PHD HP, 8-inch CS LP, 12-inch CS/HDPE LP, supply/main line(s) and conduit. Install one handhole and one electrical cabinet approximately 60 feet east of Blackstone Street, within sidewalk, connected with one 1/4-inch rigid conduit. Cabinets to be protected with bollards (two each). Connect communication line(s), transmitters and vents. Work required to improve/upgrade control monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

**Present:** James Blais.


**Summary:** This petition was previously approved (2 years ago) but grant of location expired and the work was not done (#187540). It is an upgrade to improve gas line system. The only revision to previous petition is that they will not have telecom connections. The other related petition, which is ongoing and relates to the electrical component, is 183837.

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


- 16. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - January 23, 2025.

**Decision:** Approved.

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**Minutes Approved:** March 20, 2025

MM\_\_\_\_MM/

**Minutes Posted:** March 20, 2025

TJS\_\_\_\_TJS/