

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, March 5, 2026

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 (absent), 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 2-0, 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 (1196673) - FirstLight Fiber Inc.**, 12 Metro Park Road, Albany, NY 12205, for the following: Rindge Avenue and Cambridge Park Drive - Starting at Verizon MH 26/476 on Rindge Avenue, place 150 feet of fiber optic cable westerly to Verizon MH 26/594. From Verizon MH 26/594 continue 897 feet northwesterly to Verizon MH 26/595 on Cambridge Park Drive. The installation is through existing Verizon conduit, no excavation work.

Present: Ryan Kunst.

Summary: This request is to place fiber through the manholes to extend the current backbone and to service future customers. No excavation is needed.

Decision: Granted.

2. **New petition (1198384) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Emily Street - On the southwest side of Emily Street, +/-200 feet from Brookline Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply unit to utility pole #36 to enhance existing Comcast

equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network as it expands throughout Cambridge.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This request is typical for new Comcast power supply. Due to enhancing equipment around the City, new powering is required. There will be no pole replacement and no excavation. Several similar projects are expected in the City.

The Commission advised Comcast to pay closer attention to the petitions they are filing because this one, in addition to others, indicate pole replacement but also state “no pole work.”

The proposed battery cabinet to be attached to the pole is large and the Commission expressed concern that it might be too large and out of line with the small cell policy. The Commission asked what would happen to the six large batteries in the cabinet were the pole to fall down. Comcast stated that technicians would have to remove the batteries. They also discussed the run time on the batteries if the pole lost power. It was unknown whether it was three or six hours.

Comcast did notify Eversource about this cabinet and Eversource has no objections to it.

The Commission discussed continuing the petition to get more information from Comcast on the dimensions of the cabinet and whether they conform with size limits in the small cell policy. Furthermore, the Commission needs time to determine whether any conditions should be added to these cabinets, such as a sign indicating what is inside.

Decision: Continue to: obtain information as to the cabinet size and confirmation it complies with limit dimensions on Small Cell Policy; and provide the Commission time to determine whether there should be any conditions attached to a grant for power/battery supplies.

- 3. New petition (1198390) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Chestnut Street - On the northeast side of Chestnut Street, +/-98 feet southeast of Brookline Street, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #146/15 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network as it expands throughout Cambridge.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: The Commission began by incorporating by reference the discussion had on Petition 1198384, as they raise the same concerns as this petition. The Commission pointed out that there is currently a double pole on site, which would need to be moved prior to installation.

Decision: Continue to: obtain information as to the cabinet size and confirmation it complies with limit dimensions on Small Cell Policy; provide the Commission time to determine whether there should be any conditions attached to a grant for power/battery supplies; and provide the utilities sufficient time to remove the current double pole.

- 4. Continuation from January 22, 2026 to allow petitioner to submit the new route, updated plan showing the route and new conduit placements, and to allow utilities going into the conduits to submit their petitions (1176310) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street and Cardinal Medeiros Avenue

MAIN STREET and GALILEO GALILEI WAY - Install approximately 510 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2713 to new MHC31121 via new manhole, MHC32711. Install approximately 690 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2341 to new MHC31121 via new manhole, MHC32711. Install (2) new manholes, MHC32711 and MHC31121 in Galileo Galilei Way.

PORTLAND STREET - Install approximately 145 feet of (2) 6-5" conduits from MHC526 to MHC30 at Hampshire Street.

HAMPSHIRE STREET and CARDINAL MADEIROS AVENUE - Install approximately 30 feet of 6-4" conduit from MHC3203 TO MHC1142, 60 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC30 to MHC1142 and 190 feet of 6-4" conduit from MHC1123 to MHC1140.

CARDINAL MEDEIROS AVENUE - Install approximately 130 feet of 4-5" conduit from MHC1121 to MHC1140, 135 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC1142 to MHC1140, 125 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC1140 to MHC31, 215 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC31 to MHC3276, 375 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC31 to new manhole MHC32709, 90 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC3276 to new manhole MHC32709; install one new manhole MHC32709; replace 2 existing manholes MHC1140 and MHC31.

BINNEY STREET from CARDINAL MEDEIROS AVENUE to THIRD STREET - Install approximately 5375 feet of (2) 6-6" conduit, 181 feet of 6-6" conduit, 770 feet of 6-5" conduit, 626 feet of 4-5" conduit; install (1) new manhole need MHC32710; install (6) new special order manholes (A,B,C,D,E,F); replace (9) existing manholes.

THIRD STREET at BINNEY STREET - Install approximately 250 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2596 to MHC1375.

BINNEY STREET (ROUTE H) - Install additional (2) 4-inch conduits in the ductbank route from MHC133 to MHC1382, from MHC1382 to MHA, from MHA to MHC138, and from MHC1379 to MHC1386; install (1) 4" conduit from MHC1381 to the existing CNC handhole.

Present: Benjamin Bowers.

Summary: This petition had been continued to allow route upload. There is an updated description of the scope of work involving route H.

Decision: Granted, as amended, with typical conditions.

- 5. New petition (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: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary This petition would be for one new manhole and conduit to provide electrical service at customer request to a nine-unit apartment building. They would be replacing the pole.

The Commission discussed that a building permit has not yet been approved so Eversource's petition is premature. In discussing why the manhole is needed in a public way, Eversource explained that it would be to install conduit to a transformer as there are no other poles in the area.

Decision: Continue, and remove from the agenda, until building permits for location are issued.

- 6. New petition (1195773) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following:
Corporal Burns Road - Install new manhole (MHC32830).

Concord Avenue and Corporal Burns Road - Northerly from manhole (MHC1663) in Concord Ave., to new manhole (MHC32830) in Corporal Burns Road, install approximately 63 feet of conduit. **Concord Ave. at Corporal Burns Road** - Easterly at the intersection of Concord Ave. and Corporal Burns Road, to private property at #401 Concord Ave., install approximately 55 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is for one new manhole and conduit installation to provide service to 401 Concord Avenue and other future customers. The Commission discussed that no building permit has been issued yet.

Decision: Continue, and remove from the agenda, until building permits for location are issued.

7. **New petition (1195864) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Southeasterly thence easterly then northerly from manhole (MHC337), west of Elm Street, to private property at #1103 Cambridge Street, install approximately 80 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is to install conduit to provide electrical service to 1103 Cambridge Street. It is new service at customer request for commercial space.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

8. **New petition (1195865) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Winslow Street - Southeasterly, thence southwesterly and then southeasterly from Pole 736/12, approximately 347 feet northeast of Sherman Street, to private property at #50 Winslow Street, install approximately 36 feet of conduit.

Summary/Decision: At the petitioner's request, removed from the agenda as there was an issue with the private property portion of the work; petitioner to inform when the matter is resolved.

9. **New petition (1196761) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Walden Street - Northeasterly thence easterly from Pole 697/21, south of Richdale Avenue, to private property at #70 Walden Street, install approximately 66 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is to install conduit on Walden Street. This is new service at customer request for a twelve-unit building.

The Commission addressed that typical mill and overlay work would need to be completed, and that the pole would need to be replaced before any attachments are installed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that no new attachments are installed until the old Pole 21 is removed.

- 10. New petition (1197893) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mellen Street - Southerly side, approximately 222 feet east of Massachusetts Avenue, install hip guy 10 feet behind pole 479/5.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is to install a hip guy behind pole 479/5. Another pole will also be removed due to a 25-unit building being built and the current pole interferes with construction. The Commission reminded the petitioner that there needs to be at least a four-foot clearance on the sidewalks to comply with the ADA.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the notation that any new installations need to meet ADA standards – 4-foot clearance on sidewalks.

- 11. New petition (1197761) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cherry Street - Northerly thence westerly and then northwesterly from pole 621/22, on School Street, to private property pole 143/7-1A on customer's property at #35 Cherry Street, install approximately 179 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition is to provide electrical service to three new condominium buildings with ten residences. The pole would be replaced.

The Commission expressed concern that the proposed design is in conflict with the City-wide sewer project, so the petitioner needs to coordinate with DPW.

Decision: Denied.

- 12. New petition (1198135) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Clifton Street - Easterly thence turning northerly from manhole (MHC2830), approximately 420 feet west of Clifton Circle, to public way at #72 Clifton Street, install approximately 97 feet of conduit. Eversource to install switchgear SC534 with one transformer cubicle and a vault station transformer on the private property of the City of Cambridge, Rindge Avenue (Comeau Field).

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: A new description of the proposed work was submitted after this hearing was scheduled. This work is to install switchgear on a public way for the installation of EV charging stations at Comeau Field. This is a City of Cambridge request.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions as set for electric vehicle charging stations. (Cristina, please make sure to update the description on the petition, thanks).

- 13. New petition (1198387) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Jackson Street - Southerly thence turning westerly from Pole 394/15, approximately 130 feet north of Dudley Street, to private property at #96 Jackson Street, install approximately 52 feet of conduit and one manhole (MHC32847).

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.


Summary: This petition is to one new manhole and conduit at 96 Jackson Street at customer request. The pole will also be replaced.

The Commission and petitioner discussed the need for the man hole. Because the proposed plans are directly between City sewer and water main lines, it does not appear they have enough space to do this work as they need three feet clearance from the mains. The Commission requested test pits be done before considering this petition further.

Decision: Continue to perform test pits to determine whether there is sufficient space for the manhole – there must be a 3 foot clearance from each the sewer and water main lines.

14. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2026; and February 26, 2026.

Decision: Approved as to all.

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Minutes Approved: March 26, 2026

MM__ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: March 26, 2026

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