

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, April 25, 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.

[Note: Petitions 1 – 3 called together.]

1. New petition (263898) - Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Fawcett Street - Install approximately 50 feet of 2-inch electrical conduit in the public sidewalk on Fawcett Street.

Present: James Wilcox.

Summary: This relates to the City's electric vehicle charging program. This petition would be for two EV chargers for Fire Department fleet. This will be on the south side of Fawcett Street, approximately 200 feet off the intersection of Smith Place. They would install a handhold electric cabinet and two chargers. The conduit would be placed on the sidewalk, curb line. They are installing one new pole to provide electric service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions of EV charging stations and permanent sidewalk restoration.

2. New petition (264444) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, for the following: Fawcett Street - Easterly from new pole 271/42A, approximately 175 feet east of Smith Place to new handhole, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This relates to the City's electric vehicle charging program. This petition would be for two EV chargers for Fire Department fleet. This will be on the south side of Fawcett Street, approximately 200 feet off the intersection of Smith Place. They would install a handhold electric cabinet and two chargers. The conduit would be placed on the sidewalk, curb line. They are installing one new pole to provide electric service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

3. New petition (264440) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, for the following: Fawcett Street - Southerly side, approximately 175 feet east of Smith Place, install (1) new pole 271/42A.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This relates to the City's electric vehicle charging program. This petition would be for two EV chargers for Fire Department fleet. This will be on the south side of Fawcett Street, approximately 200 feet off the intersection of Smith Place. They would install a handhold electric cabinet and two chargers. The conduit would be placed on the sidewalk, curb line. They are installing one new pole to provide electric service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. Continuation from February 15, 2024 to find a different path or coordinate with City Arborist (256296) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Otis Street - Southwesterly, from MHC1495 to private property line, install approximately 46 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Operations met with the City arborist. They are attempting to utilize existing conduit and then if cannot use, use air procedure to add a new conduit which would protect the trees.

Decision: Granted with the understanding that there is to be continued coordination with the City arborist and that if the determination is made that the existing conduit can be used, it must be used. Alternatively, if new conduit must be placed, the petition is granted with the condition that the placement of new conduit can only be done with air spading, and all other typical conditions.

5. New petition (256157) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, for the following: Cottage Parke Avenue - Westerly, from pole 178/2 to private property line at 19 Cottage Park Ave, install approximately 82 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Conduit in Cottage Park Avenue, this is for new service. They are using the common trench as much as practicable. There is an existing pole that will be replaced by a new pole.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that common trench is to be done as much as practicable, and old pole must be completely removed before any new risers are placed on the new pole.

6. **New petition (262567) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Cottage Parke Avenue - Westerly from pole 178/2 to 21 Cottage Park Ave install approximately 121 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to provide 21 Cottage with new service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that common trench is to be done as much as practicable, and old pole must be completely removed before any new risers are placed on the new pole.

7. **New petition (262441) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Highland Street - Southerly from pole 356/18 on Highland Street to #64 Highland Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is to upgrade existing service at 64 Highland, and it is at the request of the customer. The customer is increasing the load but the character of location is not changing. They are only installing one 3-inch conduit as this is secondary service and it is not encased in concrete.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and permanent sidewalk repair.

8. **New petition (262442) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Sherman Street - Northerly from pole 632/7 to #26 Sherman Street, install approximately 5 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is to provide new electric service at 26 Sherman. This work has been completed, it is energized, there is a brand new 2-inch conduit and a PVC installed in the public way. This is an ongoing issue – contractors doing the work before a grant of location is given. Big burden on the owner. Eversource represented they have had various supervisors meet with the contractors to avoid this situation. Eversource has also added verbiage specifying the contractor cannot energize until receive grant of location and until double poles are removed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and permanent sidewalk repair.

9. **New petition (262443) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Palmer Street - Northeasterly from SNV5074 to rear of #1400 Massachusetts Avenue, install approximately 23 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Install on Palmer, 1400 Massachusetts Avenue, for an upgrade of existing service, requested by customer. There is no change in the character of the property. Eversource looked at other options even feeding from Massachusetts Avenue but could not do it. It is brick pavement and 12 Palmer Street, which is also the same owner, is also going to be doing work there. In this location they are installing two 4-inch 800 amp service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that: test pits must be conducted on Palmer Street; permanent sidewalk and roadway repair following City standards; site visit with DPW and Electrical required prior to the start of any work; and must implement a rodent control plan.

10. **New petition (262561) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Fayette Street - Northeasterly from pole 265/5 to #12 Fayette Street install approximately 8 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is for additional conduit in 12 Fayette Street for an upgrade to existing service, requested by the customer. The work at this location has been completed. At this site, there is an additional conduit installed, a 2 inch PVC, for which ownership has not been taken. It will need to be removed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and notation that if no utility takes ownership of the extra conduit, it must be removed by the contractor.

11. **New petition (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; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is for new electric service at 1353-1355 Cambridge Street. They will need to continue to talk to Eversource for alternate options as this is a new project that took years to complete, and need to have an on site meeting. Current building gets fed from overhead, and from other buildings, wanted to separate so each building can have their own service.

Decision: Continued to have an onsite meeting to determine an alternate route.

12. New petition (262582) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Elm Street - Northwesterly from pole 230/3 on Elm Street to #213 Harvard Street, install approximately 41 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Conduit Elm electric 213 Harvard Street for new service, 9 unit residential building.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

13. Consideration to Bifurcate Petition #258946 - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581: On March 21, 2024, the Commission and Petitioner entered into a Tolling Agreement for the Petition which includes five installations: 140 Elm Street; 29 Hews Street; 12 Goodman Road; 6 Oak Street; and 7 Broadway Terrace. The Petitioner has requested to remove 140 Elm Street, 29 Hews Street and 12 Goodman Street from the Tolling Agreement and for the Commission to issue a decision on those.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Brandi Spezzano.

Summary: Of the three sites sought to be bifurcated, Hews Street did receive some opposition. However, the petitioner went back and could not find an alternate location to place the Hews Street one and the installation is compliant with the provisions of the Small Cell Policy. As to Goodman and Elm no opposition had been received and the petitioner has confirmed the integrity of the poles and the distance between the installation and any buildings or any other installation is within or beyond what is required by the Small Cell Policy. All of the feeds are aerial connections. Petitioner will wait for Eversource to switch any poles before doing their work.

Decision: Request to bifurcate granted; amended tolling agreement signed for 6 Oak Street; and 7 Broadway Terrace. As to 140 Elm Street, 29 Hews Street and 12 Goodman Street, granted.

[Note: Petitions 14-16 were called together.]

14. Continuation from October 19, 2023 to receive a combined updated plan from Crown Castle/Eversource that shows same route and location of handholes (existing and proposed). Petitioner informed that old existing guy wire pole needs to be removed prior to any new installation (241074) - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Crown Caste is proposing to install approximately 7 feet of conventional fiber conduit from existing Crown Castle handhole to proposed Crown Castle handhole on Dana Street, and approximately 5 feet of conventional fiber conduit from the same proposed Crown Castle handhole to be stubbed and capped on street side of the curb, to be connected with future proposed conduit provided by Verizon. Crown Castle is also proposing to upgrade the existing small cell wireless facility near 975 Massachusetts Avenue to include a panel array antenna and add a larger equipment cabinet to the existing steel guyed utility pole (Node ODAS_2E-14) located near 975 Massachusetts Avenue and 2 Dana Street.

Crown Caste is also proposing to install approximately 12 feet of conventional fiber conduit from existing Crown Castle handhole to proposed Crown Castle handhole on Sidney Street, and approximately

7 feet of conventional fiber conduit from the same proposed Crown Castle handhole to be stubbed and capped on street side of the curb, to be connected with future proposed conduit provided by Verizon. Crown Castle is also proposing to upgrade the existing small cell wireless facility near 216 Sidney Street (Node ODAS_N012) to include a panel array antenna and a larger equipment cabinet at the existing steel guyed utility pole.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: Verizon updated the plan and removed the old plan to show the correct hadhold location. Crown Castle's documents remain the same.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that trench restoration is required, and must remove the old guy wire pole.

15. Continuation from March 21, 2024 to receive a combined updated plan from Crown Castle/Eversource that shows same route and location of handholes (existing and proposed). Petitioner informed that old existing guy wire pole needs to be removed prior to any new installation (255835) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Sidney Street - Verizon to place 77 feet of conduit from manhole #479 to a Crown Castle conduit stub on Sidney Street.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: Verizon updated the plan and removed the old plan to show the correct hadhold location. Crown Castle's documents remain the same.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that trench restoration is required, and must remove the old guy wire pole.

16. Continuation from March 21, 2024 to receive a combined updated plan from Crown Castle/Eversource that shows same route and location of handholes (existing and proposed). Petitioner informed that old existing guy wire pole needs to be removed prior to any new installation (255843) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Dana Street - Verizon to install 94 feet of conduit from manhole #345 to an existing Crown Castle stub on Dana Street.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: Verizon updated the plan and removed the old plan to show the correct hadhold location. Crown Castle's documents remain the same.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions that trench restoration is required, and must remove the old guy wire pole.

17. New petition (262804) Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581, for the following: Vassar Street - Crown Castle is proposing to upgrade existing equipment on the specified

pole. The upgrade will include installing an antenna array below the light arm. The structural capacity of the pole supports that installation, there will be no digging required for this upgrade.

Present: Ana Semashka.

Summary: Addition to a previously approved petition (#241257), to increase capacity on the pole; this would be an antenna reinstallation.

Decision: Granted.

18. New petition (261733) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Vassar Street - Verizon to trench 33 feet on Vassar Street from manhole 526C to the property line at 271 Vassar Street to install conduit. Contractor to trench 11 feet from property line to new manhole PPMH 526C1, to install conduit. Contractor to trench 327 feet from PPMH 536C1 to new private property manhole, to install conduit.

Present: Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: High cap service for 269 Vassar for new building. Have coordinated with DPW for this work, and believe that one of the conduits is for the City.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that one of the 4-inch conduits is for the City.

19. New petition (262406) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Edwin Land Boulevard - Verizon to trench 187 feet on Binney Street from manhole 316 to corner of Edwin H Land Boulevard. Verizon to trench in 194 feet in DCR jurisdiction from corner of Edwin H Land Boulevard to an existing Crown Castle handhole on Edwin H Land Boulevard. Total combined trench in both jurisdictions is 381 feet.

Present: Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: This is actually requesting for a grant on Binney Street. It is work for Verizon; one 4 inch conduit from an existing manhole to property border of the DCR. The work is required for service to the location. They have submitted request to DCR but have not received the approval. The City weather station probe will be disrupted so work needs to be coordinated. There was a question as to whether the petitioner could feed off the manholes on Edwin Land Boulevard – using it would eliminate the need to dig on Cambridge. This would be for a small cell but they are using the current small cell installations.

Decision: Continue to have petitioner: (1) provide proof that they have permission from DCR to do the work; and (2) have petitioner explore whether they can use the existing conduit on Edwin Land Boulevard so that they do not have to dig on the City side. Correction should be made that any grant issued on this petition would be on Binney Street.

20. New petition (262636) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Landsdowne Street - Verizon to place 192 feet of conduit from MH617C to a handhole in front of 266 Massachusetts Avenue on Landsdowne Street.


Present: Ranjeetha Prabhu.

Summary: This is to provide service to Crown Castle small cell for future wireless. There was a question as to whether this is for an already existing and powered small cell or for a future one. There is also an existing manhole MH617C at the location, and there was a question as to whether it was a communication one or an existing Verizon manhole.

Decision: Denied.

21. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2024.


Decision: Approved.


NMF ___  ___

Minutes Approved: May 16, 2024


MM ___ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: May 16, 2024

TJS ___ TJS/ 

NMF 

Minutes Approved: May 16, 2024

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Minutes Posted: May 16, 2024

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