

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

May 16, 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. **Continuation from August 24, 2023 for test pits needed to be performed (232127) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Sidney Street - Northeasterly from MH3530 thence turning and running northwesterly onto Emily Street, thence turning and running southwesterly to rear/side of private property of 149 Sidney Street, install approximately 282 feet of conduit, install one (1) new manhole MHC32116.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Test pits performed and everything went well, the path will remain as applied. Test pits results have not been uploaded to the portal but will be. This is for a request from MIT for a service upgrade; the building is changing to a laboratory.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, pending submission of test pits results.

2. **New petition (265491) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125**, for the following: Erie Street - At the back of sidewalk on corner of Erie and Waverly Street, place joint owned pole 716/17.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This would include the installation of a new 40 foot pole. The necessary primary wire is too close to the building, secondary wire will remain the same, the poles will be aligned. Plans need to be modified to show ADA compliance, a 4 foot of clearance on sidewalk. There is a double pole at this location that needs to be removed first. Pole 716/17 – will be a guy wire pole. The area around the pole is grassy, so there needs to be additional care taken in terms of installation to ensure people do not get hurt with the guy wire pole.

Decision: Granted pending submission of updated plan showing changes, installation must have four-foot clearance from the sidewalk to be ADA compliant, double pole needs to be removed, and installation of guy wire pole needs to be in such a manner that it takes into account the grassy area and take all reasonable measures to ensure people do not get hurt when walking around it.

3. **New petition (265862) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Inman Street - Southwesterly, from MHC2380, place 151 feet of conduit to private property at 28 Inman Street.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to provide electric service upgrade on Inman Street. They bypassed the smaller manholes because they needed a 6*10*8 manhole. There is a sewer line and they need to be 3 feet off curblin for sewage clearance. Test pits will need to be conducted to ensure there is space.

Decision: Continue to conduct test pits.

4. **New petition (267306) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: Franklin Street - Northwesterly from MHC318 at Western Avenue, to private property at #18 Pleasant Street, install approximately 40 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway; and Tracy McDevitt.

Summary: This is for new electric service at 18 Pleasant Street. There was question as to why the path is going through the street and not just the sidewalk. The sidewalk is brick and so they thought going through the street would be easier than cutting into the brick and cement sidewalk. They have no issues amending the plan to go through sidewalk only.

Decision: Granted with amended route only through sidewalk and updated plan, and typical conditions, permanent sidewalk repair.

5. **Reconsideration of vote for petition 262636 heard on April 25, 2024 - 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: Gabriel Albisu.

Summary: The Commission had denied the application because as presented it was “reserving” space for a possible future installation. New information provided that there is a small cell already on the pole with a client to be serviced. The handhold is already existing too. What they represented to not have is existing conduit. However, there is a Verizon manhole (although the cover is improperly labeled) at the location from which the conduit may be able to be fed. Petitioner represented that the conduit that is existing cannot feed the handhold because it is full but they could not provide information as to who owns the existing conduit.

Decision: Continue for a site visit in addition with information as to who is on the existing conduit that it making it “full.”

6. **New petition (256376) - ExteNet Systems LLC, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186,** for the following: Gore 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 pole; a shroud for radios mounted to the pole. The fiber and power connections will be done utilizing the existing pole lines.

Present: Keenan Brinn; Chris Fridrich; and Gabriel Albusu.

Summary: Existing street light pole and equipment shroud, and there is already power to the pole. The proposed antenna would be 2 feet tall by 1 foot diameter. The shroud box is 7 cubic feet, 2 feet tall, 2 feet wide, and 20 inches deep. This pole is currently 38 feet tall and will remain at 38 feet tall. There would be no excavation, it would all be feed aerially. The fiber and aerial run would even step into Somerville territory; it is long and convoluted. There was a discussion that if the feed would be done underground from the existing nearby manhole, it would only constitute a short dig and much smaller job.

Petitioner did not even consider the small dig route as there is existing fiber/conduit they can use without doing a dig. However, the long aerial route is not serving anything other than congesting more what is already there; it would make the pole less “clean.”

Decision: Continue to explore option suggested as to a short dig rather than aerial feed.

7. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes - April 25, 2024.**


Decision: Approved.

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: June 13, 2024

MM  _____

Minutes Posted: June 13, 2024

TJS  _____