

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, September 19, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

(Meeting started at 9:02 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 June 13, 2024 to figure out whether needed, or if existing conduit is usable (270028) - Cambridge Network Solutions**, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Binney Street - From existing CNS manhole by 290 Binney Street, trench approximately 177 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS communications conduit, and (1) 4-inch PVC City Shadow conduit to proposed 17" x 24" x 30" private property manhole located at 300 Binney Street.

**Summary/Decision:** Matter removed from the agenda prior to the meeting. Will be scheduled for a future meeting.

**2. Continuation from August 22, 2024 pending results of CNS's review as to whether they need the new trench (see petition #270028), further coordination with Verizon to see if there is any existing conduit that can be used by Zayo Group, and further review of plan (278784) - Zayo Group**, 1805 29th Street, Boulder, CO 80301, for the following: Binney Street - The Zayo specific work not covered under the previous CNS petition is as follows: Starting at Verizon MH 26/518 at the intersection of Fulkerson Street and Binney Street, trench +/- 5 feet westerly and install a proposed 24"x36" handhole, installing (2) 4-inch PVC conduits. From newly placed handhole, trench +/- 188 feet south then easterly to "point B" (CNS joint trench), installing (2) 4-inch conduits.

**Summary/Decision:** Matter removed from the agenda prior to the meeting. Will be scheduled for a future meeting.

*[Note: Petitions listed as items #3 & 4 on the agenda were called together.]*

**3. Continuation from March 21, 2024 while ExteNet revises and uploads drawing and route description showing new electrical feed route as amended at the hearing (258908) - Verizon New England**, 85 High Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Otis Street - Verizon to place 225 feet of conduit from existing pole #636/125 on Sixth Street at the side of 140 Otis Street, to an ExteNet handhole at 131-133 Otis Street.

**Present:** Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; Keenan Brinn, ExteNet Systems; Dan Ryan, ExteNet Systems; and Chris Fridrich, ExteNet Systems.

**Summary:** The question as to whether there needs to be an accompanying petition from Eversource remains because the idea that one was not needed due to the union agreement between the utilities could not be substantiated as the agreement could not be found or produced. At this point, ExteNet needs to file a work order with Eversource. In addition, there have been multiple amendments to the route but none of which were presented to the Commission in time.

**Decision:** Removed from the agenda until such time as a final proposal by Verizon, Eversource and Extenet is provided to Commissioner Melo, and after Commissioner Melo reviews and confirms the final plan and petition(s) make sense and are complete, then the matter(s) will be placed on the agenda for the Commission's consideration.

**4. Continuation from July 18, 2024 – Tolling agreement entered – Continued while ExteNet revises and uploads drawing and route description showing new electrical feed route as amended at the hearing (256377) - ExteNet Systems LLC**, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186, for the following: Otis 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 newly replaced pole; an equipment shroud for radios mounted to the pole; power and fiber cabling as needed. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing infrastructure.

**Present:** Bryan Simmons, Verizon; Phyllis Galloway, Eversource; Keenan Brinn, ExteNet Systems; Dan Ryan, ExteNet Systems; and Chris Fridrich, ExteNet Systems.

**Summary:** New proposed route would be: Extenet Systems, LLC proposes to install one (1) 3" SCH. 40 PVC electrical conduit starting at existing Eversource MH# 604 (located out front of 129-131 Otis Street) and traveling Westerly down Otis Street to proposed 24"x36"x24" dual compartment handhole to be installed in the sidewalk West of proposed small cell node location for a total of ~37'+/-. One (1) proposed 3" SCH. 40 PVC electrical conduit to then be installed in sidewalk from proposed dual compartment handhole Easterly ~2'+/- to proposed small cell node location. New plans were uploaded to match the route.

Commissioner Melo notes that the route does not match the street light they want to go to and there is also existing conduit that could be used. There was a question as to whether Eversource has a grant of location on a street light in route.

**Decision:** Removed from the agenda until such time as a final proposal by Verizon, Eversource and Extenet is provided to Commissioner Melo, and after Commissioner Melo reviews and confirms the final plan and petition(s) make sense and are complete, then the matter(s) will be placed on the agenda for the Commission’s consideration.

**5. New petition (282309) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Main Street - From existing catv manhole located on Wadsworth Street, trench +/- 25 feet easterly on Wadsworth Street to the private property line of 200 Main Street, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduit.

**Present:** Shane Flewelling.

**Summary:** New service connection to 200 Main Street for a new building. Street falls under five year moratorium.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition of curb-to-curb mill and overlay required.

*[Note: Petitions listed as items 6 & 7 on the agenda were called together.]*

**6. Continuation from August 22, 2024 pending Eversource petition for conduit installed without grant of location, and site visit (283002) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Channing Street and Brattle Street - Comcast proposes to take ownership of an existing 1.25-inch conduit from pole #4 on Channing Street, 5 feet to the private property line of 170 Brattle Street. The conduit is already installed and the request came from the City Electrician.

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

**Summary:** This is a clean up application. They made the transfer from the old pole to new pole. Developer replaced communication conduit to the new pole. Not sure if the double pole has been removed. Met with both utilities and made notification to Verizon to have the double pole removed.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**7. New petition (289081) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Brattle Street and Channing Street - Northeasterly from Pole 126/4, south of Brattle Street, to private property at #172 Brattle Street, install approximately 6 feet of conduit.

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

**Summary:** Ownership of conduit installed by the customer – provided electric service to 21 Brattle Street – new service.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions.

**8. Continuation from May 16, 2024 to conduct test pits (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:** Conduit in Inman to provide service to 28 Inman street. Test pits were performed and space for the new conduit was confirmed. This would be for a service upgrade; character of building not changing.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of mill and overlay, and coordination with City arborist.

**9. 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.

**Summary/Decision:** Matter removed from the agenda prior to the meeting. Will be scheduled for a future meeting.

**10. New petition (286375) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Western Ave and Howard Street - Southerly than easterly from MHC5 to property #210-212 Western Avenue, install approximately 76 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is on the corner of Western Avenue and Howard Street to provide new service to 212 Western Avenue. Questions were raised as to whether alternative runs/routes were explored since this goes through raised sidewalk. Galloway was unsure and represented this was the route identified by the engineers.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition of repairing and restoring to current condition the raised crosswalk and permanent sidewalk restoration.

**11. New petition (287698) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Howard Street and River Street - Southwesterly at Kelly Road from MHC 1728, northeast of Howard Street, to City of Cambridge handhole, install approximately 10 feet of conduit in River Street.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is for a City of Cambridge project to provide electric service to a hand hold through electrical cabinet for the street light.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of coordination with Department of Public Works (“DPW”) and City’s Contractor on River Street.

**12. New petition (287291) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: River Street and Putnam Avenue - Southerly from MHC1298 to customer handhole, install approximately 10 feet of conduit in Putnam Avenue.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** Related to the previous petition, this is also a City of Cambridge project and a customer requested handhold necessary to be powered for the new traffic control cabinet.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of coordination with DPW and City's Contractor on River Street.

**13. New petition (287665) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: River Street - Northwesterly then northeasterly from MHC 958 at Franklin Street to Cambridge Police handhole, install approximately 47 feet of conduit in Franklin Street.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** A City of Cambridge project, this is for a customer handhold on Franklin Street to provide electric service for a new traffic control cabinet.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional conditions of coordination with DPW and City's Contractor on River Street.

**14. New petition (287739) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Concord Avenue - Southwesterly from MHC 1359, across from Fawcett Street to MHC 2317, install approximately 102 feet of conduit.

**Present:** Phyllis Galloway.

**Summary:** This is to install conduit on Concord Avenue over the existing duct bank to improve system reliability in area.

**Decision:** Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition permanent concrete sidewalk repair.

**15. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - August 22, 2024.

**Decision:** Approved.

**[Matters Discussed – Not Previously Posted on the Agenda]**

**16. Discussion on Expected Petitions for Cambridge Energy Project.**

**Summary:** It was discussed how the project is huge and the area encompassed by the project – Broadway and Galileo is very expansive. The project will go in five different directions and it would be


too much as one packet. The recommendation was that the petitions be submitted per route, especially since the project is not slated to start until 2026. In addition, each submission should clearly identify that they are being submitted for the Cambridge Energy Project.

The Commission informed Eversource to relay information to the proper person who will be submitting the applications and require that they identify them as Cambridge Energy Project so that an additional workflow step prior to scheduling hearing will be added for Commissioner Melo to ensure it makes sense and is being filed in accordance with the agreement made with them.


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NMF  \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** October 24, 2024

MM  \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes Posted:** October 24, 2024

TJS  \_\_\_\_\_