

Planning & Development Standing Committee
Wednesday, August 4, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
REMOTE MEETING
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Val Gilman; Vice Chair, Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor Barry Pett

Also Present: Clerk of Committees, Sherry Karvelas

Applicants: Elizabeth Cardarelli for National Grid

This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM
All votes conducted by ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Gilman announced consistent with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend this meeting but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real-time and participate when necessary. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device, there is a “raised hand” button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options to be recognized to be speak.

Councilor Gilman announced the names of the P&D Committee members in attendance (Councilors Holmgren, Pett and herself) and City staff who were attending via Zoom.

1. Public Hearing: PP#2021-007: Request by National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Franklin Square beginning at a point approx. 120 feet SW of the centerline to the intersection of Pleasant Street

The public hearing opened at 5:37 p.m.

Those speaking in favor:

Elizabeth Cardarelli, Distribution Designer at National Grid, 44 River Street, Beverly, stated the pole petition request was due to a lengthy pole-to-pole line which caused several wires, including communication wires, to sag down over the driveways between the poles. She stated there had been incidents where taller vehicles from the U.S. Post Office had turned into their driveway taking down the sagging communication wires. She added the install of this pole specifically was to get the communication wires above the taller vehicles that would be driving in and out of the driveway/parking lot.

Carol McNeill, 48 Pleasant Street, Unit 1

Stated she was on the call with her neighbors that occupied the three units in the building, including Mrs. McKay in Unit 2 and Mr. and Mrs. Kelleher in Unit 3. Stated the pole right alongside her driveway had been leaning since she moved into her residence approximately three years ago. She stated on May 5th, 2021, a truck took down the wires and uprooted a different telephone pole.

Ms. Cardarelli stated she was aware of the leaning pole, which was not the pole in this petition, but stated the maintenance of the leaning pole was incorporated within this job. She added that this job would consist of installing the new pole between the lengthy pole-to-pole line and replacing the leaning


pole at the same time to cause as minimal disruption as possible by only blocking that location with construction one time.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

The **Clerk of Committees, Sherry Karvelas** confirmed the City Clerk’s office had mailed notice to the abutters on July 23, 2021.

Written communications received: The **Clerk of Committees** read the following communication in favor of the pole petition received from the **Public Works Director:**

Department of Public Works
28 Poplar Street
Gloucester, MA 01930



TEL (978)281-9785
FAX(978)281-3896
mhale@gloucester-ma.gov

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMORANDUM

2021 JUL 27 AM 9:25
CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

Date: July 26, 2021

To: Councilor Valerie Gilman, Planning & Development Committee Chair
Councilor Jen Holmgren, Vice Chair
Councilor Barrett S. Pett, Member

From: Michael B. Hale, Director of Public Works

Re: Application (PP2021-007) Franklin Square

Councilors:

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the above-mentioned application by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way named below:

Franklin Square: National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Franklin Square beginning at a point approximately 120' southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Pleasant Street. The proposed installation of 1 JO Pole and all appurtenances.

Also for permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed. Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitions may desire for distributing purposes.

In an attempt to maintain the quality of City roadways, the Department of Public Works requests the following be required of the applicant:

1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.
2. Proposed excavation may only occur during accepted road opening and construction season, 15 March – 15 November.
3. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.
4. All excavations must be secured at all times.
5. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4-inches.
6. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.
7. All final paving shall be done in consultation with the Department of Public Works and an agreed upon final paving plan executed by the applicant.

Should you have any questions regarding the conditions requested, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Bill Kelleher, 48 Pleasant Street, Unit 3

Asked if, as laymen, there was any work to be done on the poles that would affect the residents in the area. **Ms. Cardarelli** confirmed that the pole would be reset in the existing location and added the only

difference would be that the newer poles were approximately 2-inches wider in diameter at the base. **Mr. Kelleher** brought up concerns regarding trucks using the U.S Post Office's ancillary driveway. **Councilor Pett** stated in discussions with Administration, the Postmaster and Congressman Moulton's office (as the U.S. Post Office was federal property), the Postmaster had instructed trucks to try to use Dale Avenue and avoid Franklin Square, but stated it was not a guarantee. **Councilor Gilman** suggested Mr. and Mrs. Kelleher reach out to their ward councilor about this issue.

The public hearing closed at 5:54 p.m.

COUNCILOR QUESTIONS:

Q1. (Pett): Asked if this pole petition was due to a car versus pole accident.

A1. (Carderelli): Stated the pole was being added due to the sagging wires issue. She stated she was unaware there was an accident, but would find out that information.

Q2. (Pett): Asked if Ms. Carderelli would forward the contact information for the insurance department at National Grid so he could pass that information along to his constituents affected by the accident.

A2. (Carderelli): Confirmed she would.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to waive the reading of the conditions listed in the motion as they were included in the letter submitted by the Director of Public Works as read by the Clerk of Committees

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to permit Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way, and to install 1 JO Pole on Franklin Square beginning at a point approximately 120 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Pleasant Street. Installation of 1 JO Pole and all appurtenances - as shown on a plan included in the application dated May 28, 2021 - with the following conditions:

- 1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.**
 - 2. Proposed excavation may only occur during accepted road opening and construction season, 15 March - 15 November.**
 - 3. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.**
 - 4. All excavations must be secured at all times.**
 - 5. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4-inches.**
 - 6. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.**
 - 7. All final paving shall be done in consultation with the Department of Public Works and an agreed upon final paving plan executed by the applicant.**
- 2. Public Hearing: PP#2021-008: Request by National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Old Salem Road beginning approx. 40 feet NW of the centerline of the intersection of Buena Vista Ave and Old Salem Road**

The public hearing opened at 5:57 p.m.

Those speaking in favor:

Elizabeth Cardarelli, Distribution Designer at National Grid, 44 River Street, Beverly, stated the pole petition request was for a new property owner at 19 Old Salem Road. She stated the pole set was to bring power into the lot.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

The **Clerk of Committees** confirmed the City Clerk’s office had mailed notice to the abutters on July 23, 2021.

Written communications received: The **Clerk of Committees** read the following communication in favor of the pole petition received from the **Public Works Director**:

Department of Public Works
28 Poplar Street
Gloucester, MA 01930



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CITY OF GLOUCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMORANDUM

2021 JUL 22 PM 1:10
CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

Date: July 22, 2021

To: Councilor Valerie Gilman, Planning & Development Committee Chair
Councilor Jen Holmgren, Vice Chair
Councilor Barrett S. Pett, Member

From: Michael B. Hale, Director of Public Works

Re: Application (PP2021-008) Old Salem Road

Councilors:

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the above-mentioned application by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way named below:

Old Salem Road: National Grid to install 1 JO Pole and anchor on Old Salem Road beginning at a point approximately 40' northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Buena Vista Ave and Old Salem Road.

Also for permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed. Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitions may desire for distributing purposes.

In an attempt to maintain the quality of City roadways, the Department of Public Works requests the following be required of the applicant:

1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.
2. Proposed excavation may only occur during accepted road opening and construction season, 15 March – 15 November.
3. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.
4. All excavations must be secured at all times.
5. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4- inches.
6. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.
7. All final paving shall be done in consultation with the Department of Public Works and an agreed upon final paving plan executed by the applicant.

Should you have any questions regarding the conditions requested, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

The public hearing closed at 6:01 p.m.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Pett, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to waive the reading of the conditions listed in the motion as they were included in the letter submitted by the Director of Public Works as read by the Clerk of Committees

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to permit Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way, and to install 1 JO Pole and anchor on Old Salem Road beginning at a point approximately 40 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Buena Vista Ave and Old Salem Road. Installation of 1 JO Pole and 1 anchor - as shown on a plan included in the application dated October 19, 2020 – with the following conditions:

1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.
2. Proposed excavation may only occur during accepted road opening and construction season, 15 March – 15 November.
3. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.
4. All excavations must be secured at all times.
5. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4-inches.
6. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.
7. All final paving shall be done in consultation with the Department of Public Works and an agreed upon final paving plan executed by the applicant.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Councilor Gilman thanked the Clerk of Committees for providing a template for SCP public hearings. All members concurred.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Pett, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Submitted by: Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Documents submitted at the meeting: None.

Meeting Recording: <http://gloucester-ma.gov/1097/Past-Remote-Public-Meetings>