



**CITY OF CONCORD**  
*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
***Community Development Department***

Edward L. Roberge, PE  
*City Engineer*

CITY OF CONCORD  
POLES AND WIRES COMMITTEE

**MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 – 2:00 PM  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

**ATTENDEES**

Ed Roberge, City Engineer  
Heather Shank, City Planner  
Paul Gendron, City Surveyor  
Sue Golden, Deputy Assessor  
Richard Wollert, Concord Fire Department

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ed Roberge called the meeting to order. Mr. Roberge noted that General Services Director Chip Chesley was absent from the meeting but that City Planner Heather Shank and himself constituted a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF 6/16/17 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Roberge opened the item. Ms. Shank moved to approve the 6/16/17 Poles and Wires Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Roberge stated that he had one comment on the minutes and asked Paul Gendron to correct the date in the header from 6/16/16 to 6/16/17. Sue Golden stated that Item # 2 should have South State Street as one of the streets instead of North State Street. Mr. Roberge then seconded the motion to accept the minutes. The June 16, 2017, minutes were approved.

Mr. Roberge asked Mr. Gendron to briefly outline the agenda. Mr. Gendron stated that the agenda prepared last week had three new items and one old business item. He stated that one more item had been added today. The four new items consisted of three items for segTEL / Firstlight, and one item for Unitil Energy Systems.

## **FINAL APPLICATIONS**

1. segTEL, Inc., d/b/a FirstLight Fiber, Request for Licensure of fiber within a City Right-of-Way.  
Westbourne Road, Centre Street, Ridge Road, Forest Street, Auburn Street, and Columbus Avenue

Mr. Gendron stated that this application is for fiber starting at existing plant at the corner of School Street and Westbourne Road, then proceeding northerly to Bishop Brady High School by Westbourne Road to Centre Street, then Ridge Road, then Forest Street, then Auburn Street, then to Columbus Avenue. Mr. Gendron reminded the Committee that FirstLight had asked for the review of this project to be expedited so that they could serve the high school about the time that school was starting. He stated that on August 28, 2017, the committee and Rick Wollert were in agreement that the route could be built.

Mr. Gendron stated that as the Committee approved the application in August, the only action today is to execute the licenses.

Rick Wollert stated that FirstLight was still actively working on this project.

Mr. Roberge stated that this Committee was asked to expedite the project due to Bishop Brady High School opening for the school year. He stated that this was another example of the City and its committees being supportive to and working with our school partners.

2. segTEL, Inc., d/b/a FirstLight Fiber, Request for Licensure of fiber within a City Right-of-Way.  
Airport Road, Terrill Park Drive, and Old Turnpike Road

Mr. Gendron stated that this application is for fiber to service Concord Litho on Old Turnpike Road. He stated that segTEL / FirstLight is in the process of finalizing their acquisition of Waveguide. This current application will utilize Waveguide plant already installed and extend the network to Concord Litho. Waveguide is installed on Airport Road from Loudon Road to Ripley Street. FirstLight will then extend southerly along Airport Road to Terrill Park Drive to Old Turnpike Road, and then service Concord Litho off of Old Turnpike Road, as opposed to from Terrill Park Drive.

Mr. Gendron stated that this project was originally proposed to start at the intersection of Airport Road and Loudon Road, but that after the application was submitted, the news of the FirstLight / Waveguide merger was revealed and FirstLight revised the application to include the Waveguide plant that is already installed. He stated that he wanted to review the license documents to confirm that they correspond to the new plant maps as supplied by Shawn Smith of FirstLight.

Mr. Gendron asked Mr. Wollert if he had conducted and / or finalized his make ready work. Mr. Wollert responded that he is about 80% complete. Mr. Roberge asked Mr. Wollert if he receives an advance deposit prior to conducting his work. Mr. Wollert responded in the negative and stated that he bills after his work is complete.

Mr. Gendron recommended approval of the application subject to his final review of the license documents. Ms. Shank made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Roberge. The license petition was approved subject to Mr. Gendron confirming the final license documents.

3. Unitil Energy Systems, Request for Licensure of one utility pole within a City Right-of-Way.  
Rumford Street

Mr. Gendron stated that the utility pole is already installed. He explained that this application is related to extensive upgrades in that part of the City due to older poles being upgraded. Mr. Wollert stated that Unitil considers the poles condemned.

Mr. Gendron recommended that the application be approved. Mr. Roberge made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Ms. Shank. The license petition was approved.

4. segTEL, Inc., d/b/a FirstLight Fiber, Request for Licensure of fiber within a City Right-of-Way.  
Woodman Street and Westbourne Road

Mr. Gendron stated that this application is for fiber to service Concord High School and it has already been installed. He stated that in addition to segTEL / FirstLight acquiring Waveguide, they have also acquired Oxford Networks. Oxford also has plant installed in the City by previous licenses over the past several years. This particular project is utilizing existing segTEL plant in North Fruit Street and extending it easterly along Woodman Street to Westbourne Road and then into the high school. He stated that this past summer there were issues with segTEL / FirstLight not understanding our process with regard to licensing. Some of their employees mistakenly thought that once they were approved by the pole owners, they could then start attaching to the poles. Some personnel stated that they were not aware that they also should have received licensure from the City prior to attaching.

Mr. Gendron recommended approval of the application. Mr. Roberge made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Ms. Shank. The license petition was approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Roberge stated that he wanted to make the Committee aware of a new State of New

Hampshire project to build a new steam boiler site. He stated that plans have been submitted to the City to build a permanent boiler on the south side of School Street across from the police station in the State's vacant parking lot. He stated that Mr. Gendron had met with Stan Balch of Unitil to discuss the placement of a new utility pole to provide three phase power to the proposed boiler.

A brief discussion took place concerning the options that might be available to provide power to the boiler in the same manner as other commercial institutions within the City, such as the placement of a new pole, overhead power as opposed to underground power, transformers on the pole or an on-site transformer pad, and whether the site should comply with City regulations related to a commercial development. He recommended that Unitil and the State perform the site work in the manner that it is regulated, for that particular use.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. segTEL, Inc., d/b/a FirstLight Fiber, Request for Licensure of fiber within a City Right-of-Way.  
Fayette Street, South State Street, Thompson Street, South Main Street, Theatre Street, and Storrs Street

Mr. Gendron stated that this application was originally submitted for fiber on Fayette Street, South State Street, Thompson Street, South Main Street, Theatre Street, and Storrs Street. He reminded the Committee that it did not approve the original submission due to the work that recently took place as part of the Main Street reconstruction. He stated that the current application is to extend fiber to the Capital Center For The Arts and that he and Mr. Roberge had made multiple site visits with Mr. Smith of FirstLight, and another visit with Mike Cooke of Comcast, and that they came to an agreement for FirstLight to occupy the conduit installed by the City that is currently occupied by Comcast. He stated that FirstLight will utilize the segTEL strand on Concord Street, extend the fiber from South State Street to the intersection of Concord Street and South Main Street, then extend northerly in the conduit in South Main Street, then westerly across the Capital Center For The Arts property to their building.

Mr. Gendron also stated that the other portions of the original application, such as the extension of fiber along Theatre Street and then northerly on Storrs Street, and southerly along South Main Street to the intersection with Water Street near McDonald's restaurant, were not a part of this approval.

Mr. Wollert stated that he had completed his make ready work along South Main Street to Water Street.

Mr. Roberge stated that this was an example of good cooperation between the City, segTEL,

and Comcast.

Mr. Gendron recommended approval of the application. Ms. Shank made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Roberge. The license petition was approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items to discuss, Ms. Shank made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Roberge. Mr. Gendron indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2017.