



# IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., DECEMBER 5, 2022

**ORDERED:**

PAGE 1

That the PUBLIC HEARING on the Petition from National Grid to install a Pushbrace off Pole #18 on Mechanic Street which is needed to support pole with wires going down Manning Street, Order No. 22-1008739, all were heard who wish to be heard, hearing closed at 8:17 PM.

**Councilors Present: Wagner, Doucette, Dumais, Brown, Irish, Navin, Landers, Oram, Ossing, Perlman & Robey.**

## PUBLIC SPEAKING IN FAVOR

Speaking in favor was Al Galvin, design engineer with National Grid Electric. Mr. Galvin explained there was a tap off of Mechanic Street going down Manning and they noticed Pole #18 needed some added support from leaning and instability on the lines so the Pushbrace is the solution since they cannot anchor back towards the road. This is to ensure there are no issues with stability on the primary power lines going down Manning Street.

## QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Andrea Bibi, 162 Clover Hill Street, owns a property at 115 Mechanic Street which this pole is on the corner of her property. She was curious to know if the support is going on the street, on the sidewalk, or on her property. Mr. Galvin responded it would stay within city property which is why NGrid filed the petition instead of asking for an easement for Ms. Bibi's property. Mr. Galvin stated without having seen the site himself, it would be in line with how the cables run along the street. Ms. Bibi stated when at the site and standing on the pole, it actually runs on what looks like her property so she was wondering if by the end of the evening if she was not satisfied with his response, would National Grid be willing to meet her at the site and review the request and explain exactly what they planned to do at the site. Ms. Bibi has concerns that it could detrimentally impact her property and some of her residents that live in the building. President Ossing explained this request would probably not get approved this evening but will go to committee and there will be time for them, whether it is National Grid or the City Engineering Department, to show her exactly what is being planned for the site. President Ossing further stated the city's engineers may have an alternative option to what is being proposed by National Grid and it is still being discussed by the two groups.



## IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., DECEMBER 5, 2022

PAGE 2

### ORDERED:

Ms. Bibi indicated perhaps her questions were not necessary, but President Ossing reassured her to ask her questions as the National Grid representative is present, the chair of the committee as well the committee members are present to hear her concerns. Ms. Bibi stated all the electrical and all the utilities from her property are on the corner of her building in very close proximity to that pole and she was concerned about having access to her utilities obstructed by that pole. The water is there, the electrical for her twenty-four-unit building, the cable, and internet are all right on that corner so she wished to assurance this pole will not impact her ability to access all of those services. Mr. Galvin stated their placement should not affect her as they position the pole to pull the bracket of the pole in a position at the top where it is out of the way of her service draw operating lines off the pole but where it enters the ground is going to be city property not Ms. Bibi's so he would assume there is no issue with water lines. Ms. Bibi was having difficulty visualizing the proposed setup, not just where it hits the ground but the slope. Mr. Galvin confirmed it is an angle and the proposed pushbrace is about the same size and just angled out about twenty to twenty-five feet off from the current pole. Ms. Bibi explained the cable box and internet connections are attached to the outside of her building so when her tenants call for service, the cable and internet technicians come to that side of the building and need free and clear access to the utilities. Mr. Galvin stated none of that would change, this is just a pole at that pole at the corner supporting it upright, it does not change where the cables are going. Ms. Bibi understood that but was concerned the new pole would obstruct people's ability to access her building's utilities. Mr. Galvin was not familiar with this particular location but as long as there is a drivable surface there, workers can maneuver around this brace. He was sure that was what the designer looked at when at the site as they would not put it in a place that they could not work. President Ossing stated to Ms. Bibi this petition would most likely be going to committee and that would be the time to watch and provide comments to them. The chair would be happy to take any written comments from her.

Ms. Bibi stated her other concern about this pole, depending upon the slope and angle, she has several residents with windows on that side of the building. She would hate for this pole to be coming down outside their windows, so they are looking at this utility pole as their view. Those particular apartments are small studios, and they only have the one window so it would be less than ideal to gaze at this pole cutting through their view. Mr. Galvin asked if the building was very close to the street and Ms. Bibi stated it was only a matter of feet from the street. Mr. Galvin explained the engineer determined when they visited the site and working at the property where the best place to angle this pole to support the lines. Mr. Galvin noted an alternative might be coming across the street to a secondary pole and bracing it in a different way as a possibility.



# IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., DECEMBER 5, 2022

PAGE 3

## ORDERED:

Ms. Bibi had a similar concern, not knowing how close it would be to her first-floor tenants window, and she did not know if it would create a safety issue. If someone could step up on it to access the tenant's window is something she is concerned with on behalf of her tenants. She also asked how they prevent people from climbing on it. Mr. Galvin replied there is no way to stop someone from doing that if they want to do it. He stated if it is truly that close the building where there are genuine concerns about people being able to reach the windows it could be addressed at their next meeting. Mr. Galvin noted with regards to windows as far as the power lines go, there is a minimum of three feet away from windows so if the pole is five feet off, there is that buffer where somebody cannot reach it with their arm.

Ms. Bibi stated those were all of her questions, but she was not necessarily satisfied with the answers. President Ossing explained it is still preliminary, and the design has not been finalized and they will hear from the city engineer on this petition. He reassured her all the councilors have heard her concerns, and they will take them into consideration at the appropriate time.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION

No one spoke in opposition.

## QUESTIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Landers thanked Ms. Bibi for speaking and stated that is the purpose of the public hearing because it gives the public an opportunity to speak and ask questions. When items are in committee, there is not that opportunity to ask questions, but people can go through their city councilor with their concerns. Councilor Landers noted this petition would probably elicit as much discussion at the committee meeting as it did at this hearing because there were members of the committee with concerns and employees of the Department of Public Works with concerns. He believes there will be a good discussion, and the committee will make the right decision. Councilor Landers planned to schedule the committee meeting as soon as possible, maybe even the following week.

The City Clerk read the following correspondence from the city engineer:

From City Engineer Thomas DiPersio to the City Council regarding the petition of Massachusetts Electric to install a pushbrace off Pole 18 on Mechanic Street which is needed to support the pole with wires going down Manning Street, Order No. 22-1008739.

I offer the following for your consideration; we are generally not in favor of push braces in the public way especially in areas with sidewalks. A stump pole anchor on the opposite side of Mechanic Street would be preferred, I recommend that the council ask the applicant to discuss the feasibility of this alternative. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Thomas DiPersio  
City Engineer



# IN CITY COUNCIL

---

Marlborough, Mass., DECEMBER 5, 2022

PAGE 4

## ORDERED:

President Ossing confirmed that the City Engineer has already reached out to NGrid's design team and requested Mr. Galvin remind their representatives of the City Engineer's request so they can be prepared to discuss this alternative at the committee meeting.

That ends the entire Public Hearing. This is currently in the Public Services Committee.

ADOPTED

ORDER NO. 22-1008739A