



*Town of Nahant*  
*334 Nahant Road*  
*Nahant, MA 01908*

*Telephone: 781-581-0088 Fax: 781-593-0340*

September 3, 2020

Ralph Martin  
Columbus Place and Alumni Center  
716 Columbus Avenue  
Boston, MA 02120

Re: Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020

Dear Mr. Martin,

I am writing in regard to the proposed Northeastern University Marine Science Center expansion at East Point in Nahant. As you know, this proposed project has garnered significant public interest. Indeed, any public hearing or meeting held addressing any aspect of the proposed project is usually attended by a capacity crowd interested in all aspects of the regulatory process. As you are aware, due to the COVID-19 emergency crisis, the Governor has limited crowd size for indoor and outdoor gatherings. Therefore, meetings and/or hearings that garner significant attendance are very difficult, if not impossible. As such, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 provides that non-action by a permit granting authority shall not deem a permit granted so long as said permit granting authority act within 45 days from the lifting of the Governor's Declaration of Emergency.

As I indicated above, due to any hearing or meeting involving the proposed project would likely garner significant public interest, the Town will not conduct such hearing or meeting virtually and instead will wait, as allowed by c.53 of the Acts of 2020, until the Governor's Emergency Declaration has been lifted. The Town requires that Northeastern recognizes the unique circumstances and challenges facing the Town in these challenging times and commits to refraining from any further filings with the Town until such time as in-person hearings can be conducted.

Thank you for your expected commitment to suspend filings and site work. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Antonio Barletta  
Town Administrator