

Hi Jared,

I hope this note finds you well! I'm sending you a brief anecdotal story regarding my experience living on and regularly visiting Christian Hill Road over 6 plus decades as it relates to the Jacobson project. As a young boy, my family moved up on Christian Hill Rd. That home remained in the family for over 60 years. I lived in that house for over 43 years [as a boy and again later in life] and regularly went up and down that road when my Dad was still living in the house and I lived across town. At his passing, my wife and I bought out my brothers, renovated it and moved in. That having been said, while my story may not be statistically significant, it's certainly a strong anecdotal one given the abundance of data. I recall many, many springs when the farmhouse side of the Jacobson lands, which we always called the "cow field," could have a person knee deep in mud after the winter thaw. That's why in October of 2019 during the planning board's public walk of the land, I asked the representative from Meridian how many hundreds of thousands of yards of fill they were going to bring in to make sure these proposed homes weren't going to be swamped on any given spring. He rebuked me with a quick "oh no this land will perk." Then as we walked around behind the house for more discussion, one of the folks in our group climbed up on top of the septic field mound [right behind the house; i.e. upgradient to most of the land eastward toward Great Meadow] which was about 1.5 to 2 stories high and asked the same engineer how many of these would be spread throughout the field with houses here. The engineer had no answer that I recall. I believe that the septic mound being as high as it was certainly called into question the land's viability to pass a perk test at ground level. Please look very closely at that land's capacity to support housing before endorsing.

I don't live in Amherst anymore but I still love the town and have many friends who do live there. I hope you'll take my opinion as valid, regardless. If you'd like to discuss it further, please let me know.

Sincerely, Jim Hendrix