

## Tie vote nixes Sherman lake mapping plan

By Kendra Baker Updated 9:24 am EDT, Thursday, September 19, 2019



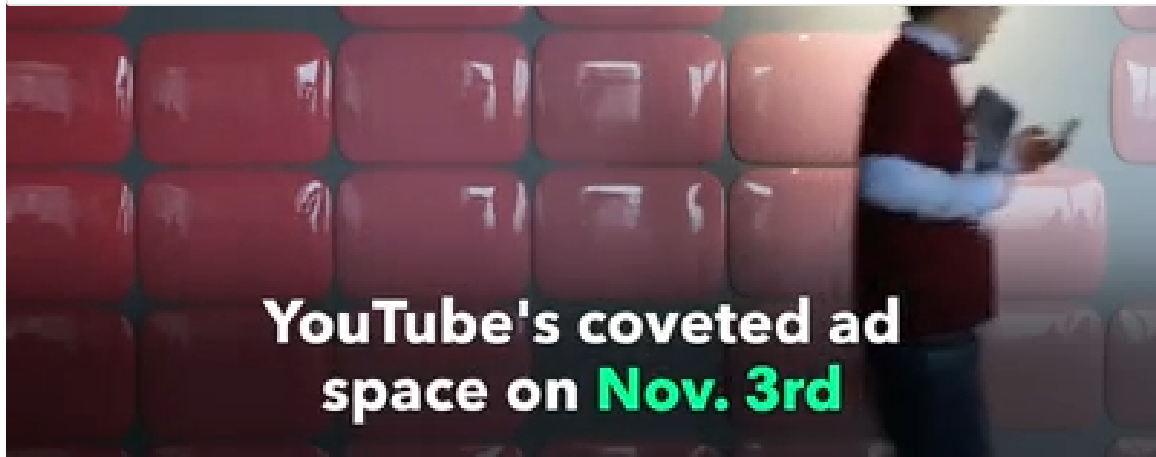
IMAGE 1 OF 5

Greg Bugbee, an associate scientist with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, lifts up a handful of Eurasian Watermilfoil from Candlewood Lake, Tuesday, August 9, 2016.

SHERMAN — Due to a tie vote, a proposal to continue funding weed mapping on Candlewood Lake did not pass at last weekend's town meeting.

Eighteen taxpayers turned out to vote on **\$29,000 of projects and initiatives** Saturday at Mallory Town Hall, where the town's three Board of Selectmen members — as well as one Candlewood Lake Authority Board member — voted against the mapping.

"The Candlewood Lake money 'not to exceed \$5,000 for weed mapping' ended in a tie vote, so it didn't pass," said First Selectman Don Lowe.

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The money would have allowed the town to spend up to **\$5,000** so **Candlewood Lake Authority** could hire the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to continue mapping the aquatic plants in the lake after FirstLight Power Resources hired Northeast Aquatic Research to take over the mapping.

"I would have voted yes," Lowe said, "except we came to understand at the meeting that the independent weed mapping was not actually approved or even supported by the (Candlewood Lake Authority) Board - only the executive committee of the CLA sanctioned this."

### **Other items**

The other three items up for vote Saturday all passed "unanimously and easily," Lowe said.

The biggest item was the authorization of **up to \$15,000 to drill a new well** by town hall and payment for infrastructure needed to get the water to the Sherman Playhouse and the firehouse.

Officials hope the well will solve the salty water problems that have been plaguing the town for years.

There were also high levels of sodium and chloride at the town hall, Sherma X

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valves.

It won't be clear until this well is drilled if it can actually serve as a water source for the firehouse and theater. **Plan B would be** to drill a new, larger well at town hall, which is now within state standards for sodium and chloride levels, and trench it over to the playhouse and firehouse to provide water to all three buildings in the complex. This will most likely be more expensive, which is one reason why the selectmen hope the new well will work.

The higher levels are due to road salt getting into the wells, though how it is specifically entering each well differs, according to a study done last year.

The last two items on Saturday's agenda pertained to **capital items at town parks** — \$2,000 for surveillance cameras at Volunteer Park and up to \$7,000 for a fence at Volunteer Field.

The cameras will be installed at the park to address issues there, including people driving on the grass, damaging it. The selectmen plan to expand the surveillance program to the other parks if the cameras at Volunteer Park are successful.

All items approved at the town meeting will be paid for with funds from the town's capital non-recurring budget.

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