

# Legislators hope to head off more attempts to ban books

By Michael Harrison  
Correspondent

LUDLOW — A proposal that could have created a book banning policy in local school libraries may have stalled last spring, but a pair of state legislators with shared roots have introduced a bill intended to stay ahead of any future attempts.

The legislation, SD.2679, titled “An Act protecting against attempts to ban, remove, or restrict library access to materials,” was referred to the Joint Committee on Rules on July 6. Its sponsors, Sen. Jake Oliveira and Rep. Aaron Saunders, both said they are confident it will proceed on a track that will lead to an eventual public hearing.

“The situation in Ludlow was unfortunate to say the least, but we shouldn’t have to wait for the next time opponents of First Amendment freedoms attack another one of our towns,” Saunders said.

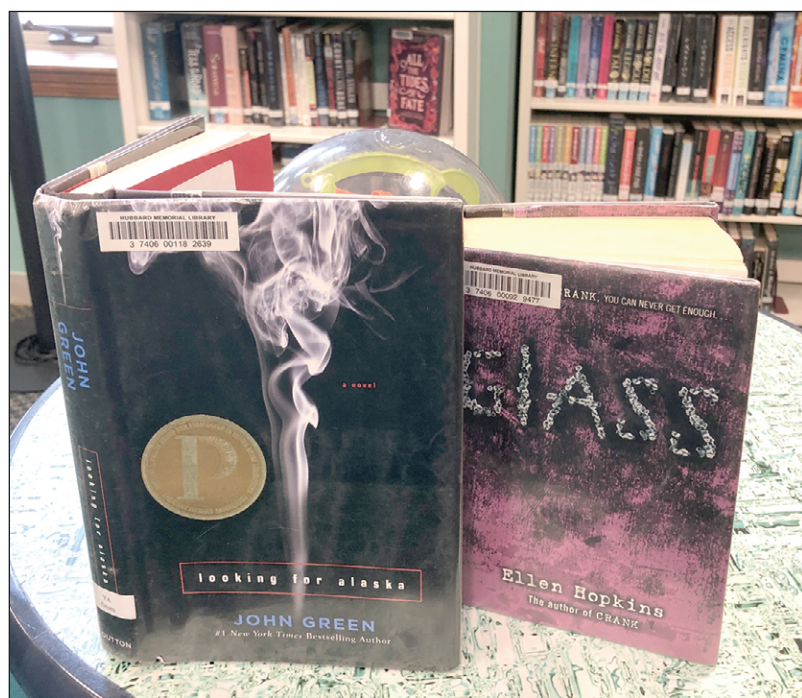
“The real value of this library protection bill is that it is a proactive measure that will provide our public libraries with a measure of protection against book banning efforts.”

According to Oliveira, “I’ve found attempts to put in place policies that could lead to book bans growing across the country for some time, but once it arrived here in Ludlow, I knew it was time to take immediate action.”

Last spring, after prior public discussions over the appropriateness of certain books in Ludlow schools, School Committee member Joao Dias made a motion during a meeting to enact a new policy that could have removed a pair of young adult novels — “Crank” by Ellen Hopkins and “Looking For Alaska” by John Green — and possibly dozens of other titles from school libraries.

The motion did not receive a second and never came to a vote.

Neither Dias nor any other Ludlow School Committee member responded to a group email sent to all of their official accounts seeking comment. Committee member and



Turley Photo by Michael Harrison  
Copies of “Crank” by Ellen Hopkins and “Looking For Alaska” by John Green borrowed from shelves at Hubbard Memorial Library last week. Those are two of the books that could have been removed from Ludlow school libraries if a proposed policy was approved last spring.

Secretary Jeffrey Stratton, reached by text, declined to comment.

Committee Vice Chair Sarah F. Bowler did not respond to a text. Ludlow Superintendent of Schools Frank Tianio did not respond to a voice message left on his extension at the district office.

During discussions earlier this year, Dias said he modeled his policy proposal on one he read about online when it was enacted by the Central Bucks School District in Pennsylvania. That policy has since been challenged in a federal lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

“These attempts, like the proposed Ludlow School Committee policy ripped off the internet from a school district in Pennsylvania, could censor age-appropriate materials because of a political or xenophobic viewpoint,” Oliveira said.

“What’s happening in our public schools could easily happen in our public libraries. I am proud to partner with Rep. Aaron Saunders to protect our libraries from these attempts to censor books. It’s a

strong bill that I’m incredibly proud to sponsor. I’m prepared to champion it until we get the results needed to protect our literature and free thought from extremists pushing a fringe political agenda.”

The two legislators behind SD.2679 are Ludlow natives. Oliveira still resides there while Saunders resettled his family in Belchertown. Both said they want to head off any statewide movement toward censorship in school and public libraries.

Oliveira, who served 12 years on the Ludlow School Committee before he was elected as a state representative in 2020, also has a background in higher education, serving as assistant executive officer of the Massachusetts State Universities Council of Presidents.

Saunders is a former Ludlow Select Board member, former chief of staff to state Sen. Gale Candaras and is a co-founder of Loophole Brewing. He also served on the staff of former U.S. Senator John Kerry.

Oliveira, who was first elected



Jake Oliveira Aaron Saunders

to the School Committee in 2009, said he recalls past discussions over books.

“During my time on the committee, removal of books in school libraries started to bubble up in Ludlow when national politicians began making this a wedge issue,” he said.

“When a challenge to certain books in a school library was brought to the attention of the school committee, we followed our district politics and formed a review committee with parents, teachers, administrators and librarians to review the challenged books. I sat on that committee and read personally the challenged material and shared it widely with friends with children and the committee determined unanimously that most materials were age-appropriate.”

Oliveira said his background in education “certainly informs my position, but this goes far beyond education.”

The bill he filed with Saunders “focuses on our public libraries,” he said.

“I have been working with colleagues in the legislature on other legislation focused on our public-school libraries. This legislation is needed across the commonwealth because it’s about protecting not only our students’ education but also free thought, freedom of expression, diversity and marginalized communities that the proponents of the proposed book bans can’t accept.”

Both said they have received positive feedback from constituents and fellow legislators.

“The book banning effort in Ludlow was a wake-up call to

ensure that the Legislature is doing everything it should to protect our public libraries,” Saunders said.

“The bill Senator Oliveira and I filed will help provide those protections.”

According to Oliveira, “Since these aggressive attempts to put in place narrow-minded policies have been proposed, I have received messages of concern from parents, students, teachers, community members and colleagues from across the state. I have received an overwhelmingly positive response from constituents and from members of the State Library Board of Commissioners. They want to see books kept on the shelves at our public libraries and schools.”

He added that, “Book bans are nothing new. They are ways to suppress free thought and have been employed by Communist China, the Soviet Union, and Nazi Germany.”

Kristin Santos, youth services assistant at Hubbard Memorial Library, said she’s aware of the proposal the school committee ultimately did not vote on and the controversy over “Crank” and “Looking For Alaska”, which she said have been increasingly checked out by local adults.

“People do come into the library to check out books that are being questioned to see what’s going on inside and decide for themselves if they are appropriate for their own children,” Santos said.

The mother of a local middle school student herself, “I didn’t read ‘Crank’ — I listened to ‘Crank’ because I didn’t have a lot of time to sit down and read the novel, but I listened to it to make my own decisions on the book,” Santos said.

“You can read a part of a book but that doesn’t mean you understand the whole book. I need, by myself, to make those decisions for my child.”

She declined to share her personal opinion of the book.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN — The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in September and October.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR’s water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed. Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

### Late Summer Meadow Visit

An easy 1-mile Late Summer Meadow Visit will be held at Quabbin Park on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This hike will walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove. The walk is easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised.

Participants should meet at the Middle Entrance Parking

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 15

## public notices

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION CARE AND PROTECTION TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS DOCKET NUMBER: 21CP0233SA Trial Court of Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Essex County Juvenile Court 56 Federal Street Room 2001 Salem, MA 01970 (978)745-9660**

TO: Adam E. Inman:

A petition has been presented to this court by DCF Lowell, seeking, as to the following child, **Ariel L. Coelho**, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship of the child

named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: **10/12/2023 at 09:00 AM Hearing on Merits (CR/CV)**

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

**If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter.**

For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at (978)745-9660.

WITNESS: Hon. Kerry A. Ahern, FIRST JUSTICE. DATE ISSUED 08/03/2023

Judith M. Brennan, Clerk Magistrate 08/24, 08/31, 09/07/2023

**TOWN OF WARE Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2023-05**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit

Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY, September 7, 2023 at 7:05 PM** on the application of James Mosher, for a Special Permit for the construction of a two family home under section.4.1.1, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA.

It is possible that any or all members of the public

body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public.

The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

**SITE LOCATION: Lee Rd, Ware, MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 14474, Page 54. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel # 35-10-8. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

**WARE PLANNING BOARD**  
Ed Murphy, Chairman 08/24, 08/31/2023

**Legal Notice Town of Ware Board of Health Site Assignment Modification Public Hearing**

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Sections 150A and 150A½ and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 310 CMR 16.00 “Site Assignment Regulations for Solid Waste Facilities,” the Ware Board of Health will commence a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in the library of the Ware Junior Senior High School, 237 West Street, Ware, MA 01082 for the proposed modification of the existing site assignment of the facility located at 198 East Street, Ware, MA 01082. It is expected that the hearing will continue over multiple dates.

The existing site assignment for 8.9 acres of the 25.1-acre parcel is for a C&D Recycling/Processing Facility at a maximum rate of 750 tons per day and 214,500 tons per year operating from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday and 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays. The proposed modification to the site assignment is for a

C&D Transfer Facility at a maximum capacity of up to 1,400 tons per day and 393,200 tons per year, and to accept and transfer street sweepings and catch basin cleaning residuals and Bulky Waste. The proposed hours of operation are from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. No changes are proposed to the existing Saturday operating hours of 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

The proponent and operator is: ReSource Waste Services of Ware LLC. Its address is 198 East Street, Ware, MA 01082.

The Department of Environmental Protection has issued a Report in which it determines that the above described place is a suitable place for the proposed facility modification.

Copies of the Department of Environmental Protection’s Report on Suitability and the suitability criteria (310 CMR 16.00) are available for copying and examination along with the application at the office of the Ware Board of Health at the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Copies are also

available at the Library at 37 Main Street, Ware, MA. The documents are also available on the Town of Ware website at [townofware.com](http://townofware.com).

The Board of Health will accept written comments on this application and Party and Participant Registration Forms for this hearing until September 22, 2023. Comments and Registration Forms may be mailed or delivered to the Board of Health Office at 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or emailed to [acrete@townofware.com](mailto:acrete@townofware.com). The written comment period may be extended at the discretion of the Hearing Officer or Board of Health.

Per Order of the Ware Board of Health

Jennifer McMartin, MSN, FNP-C  
Michael Juda  
John Desmond, MSE 08/31/2023

**Town of Ware Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2023-06**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on

**THURSDAY, September 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM** on the application of Melink Solar Development, for a Special Permit for annual renewal (SP-2022-08)

of an approved large scale solar facility under Section 4.8.3, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

**SITE LOCATION: 45 Greenwich Plains Road, Ware, MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 13457, Page 159. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel 22-0-12 & 22-12-1. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

**WARE PLANNING BOARD**  
Ed Murphy, Chairman 08/24, 08/31/2023

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
EARLY AD DEADLINE  
Place your public notice  
no later than 2 pm  
**Friday, September 1**  
– Thank you!

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.